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IN A NUTSHELL
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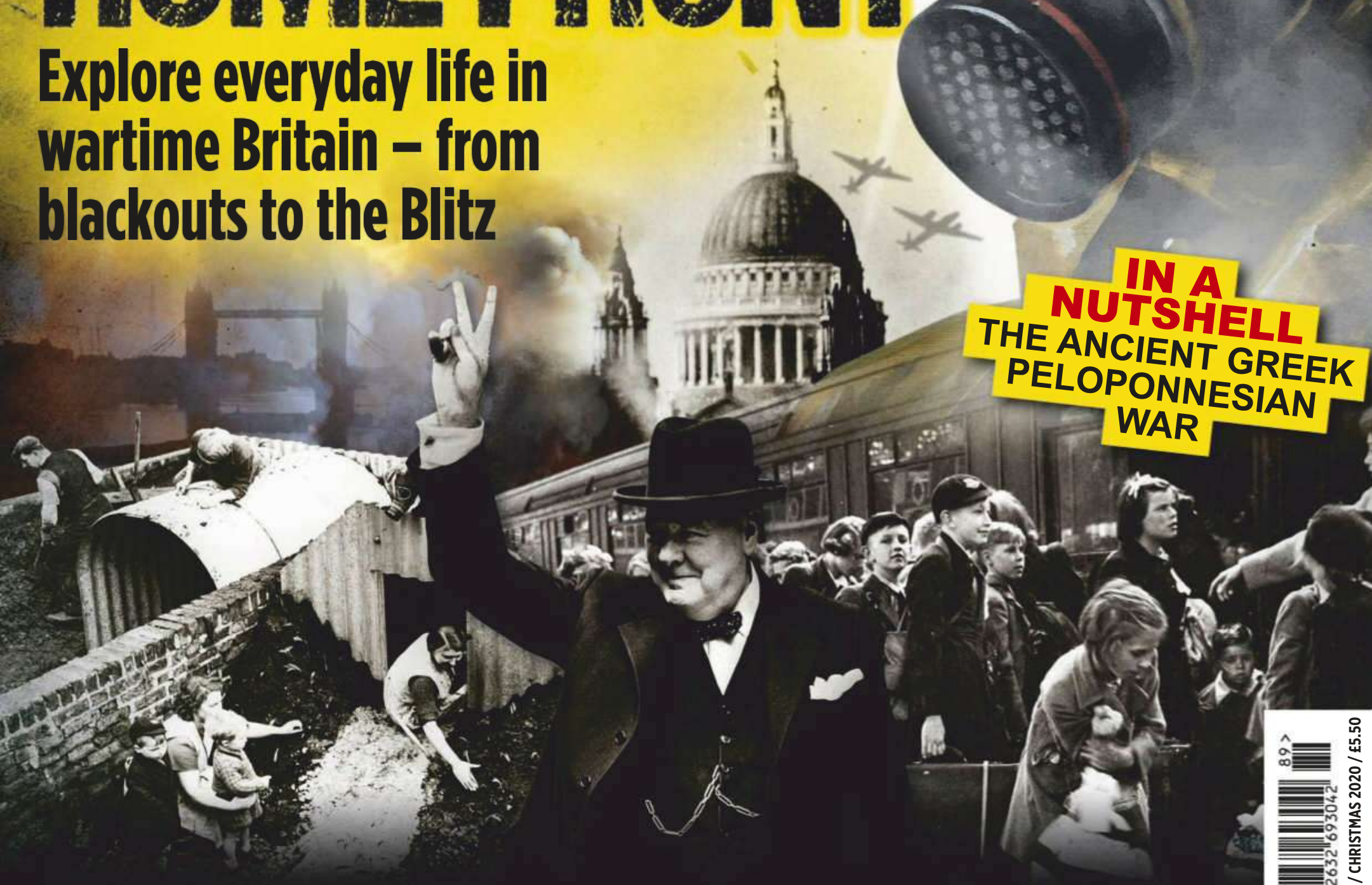

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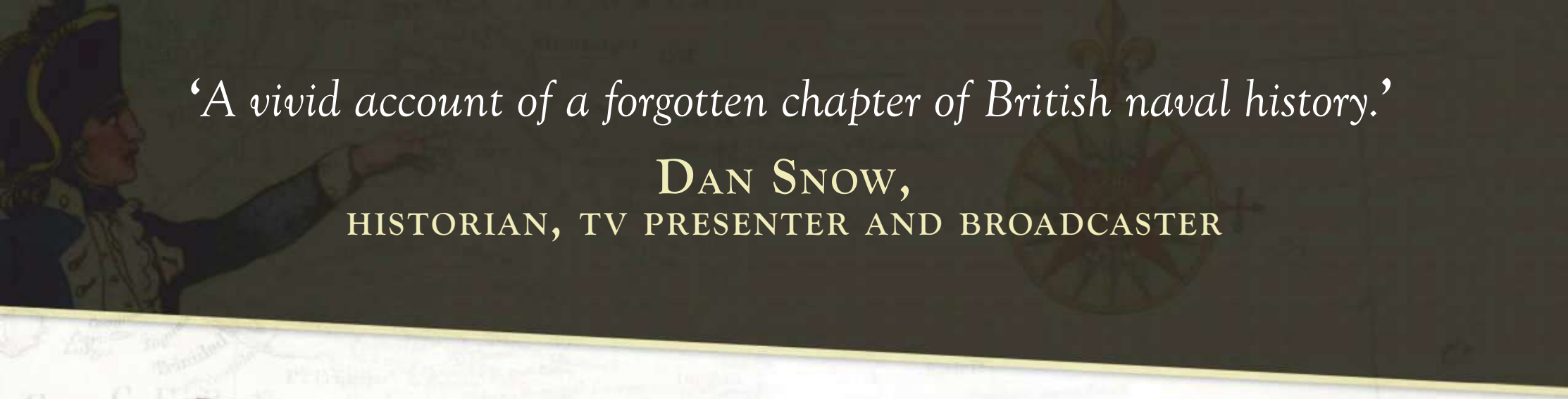
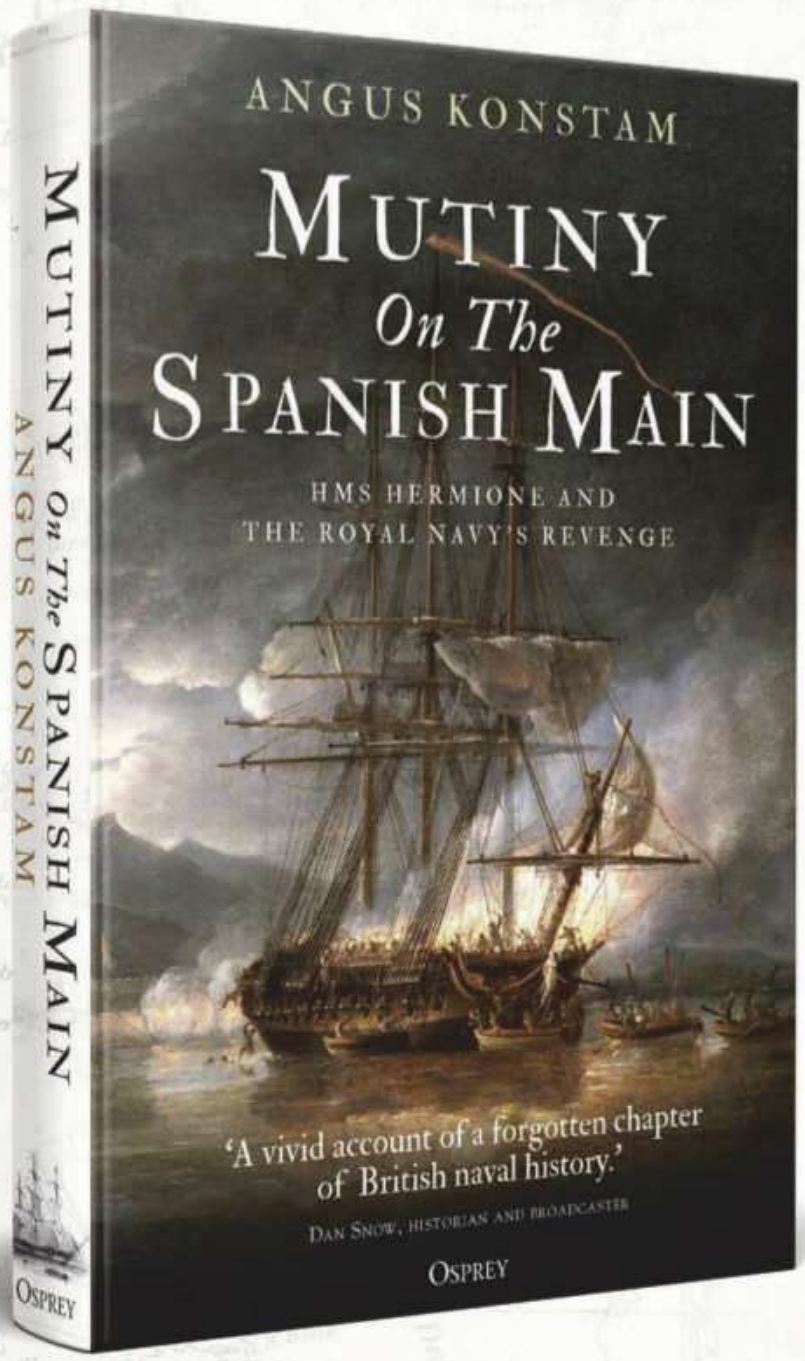


'A vivid account of a forgotten chapter of British naval history.'

Dan Snow,
historian, TV presenter and broadcaster



ANGUS KONSTAM

MUTINY *On The* SPANISH MAIN

HMS HERMIONE AND THE ROYAL NAVY'S REVENGE

From renowned author and naval historian Angus Konstam, this fascinating title tells the dramatic story of HMS *Hermione*, a British frigate which was the site of the bloodiest mutiny in British naval history.

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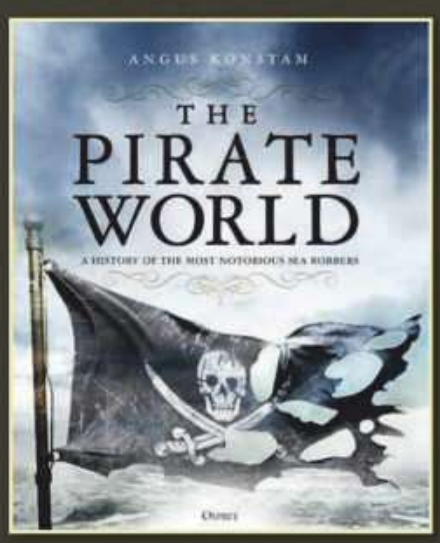

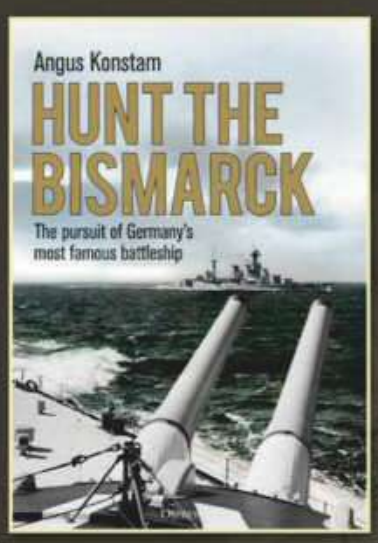

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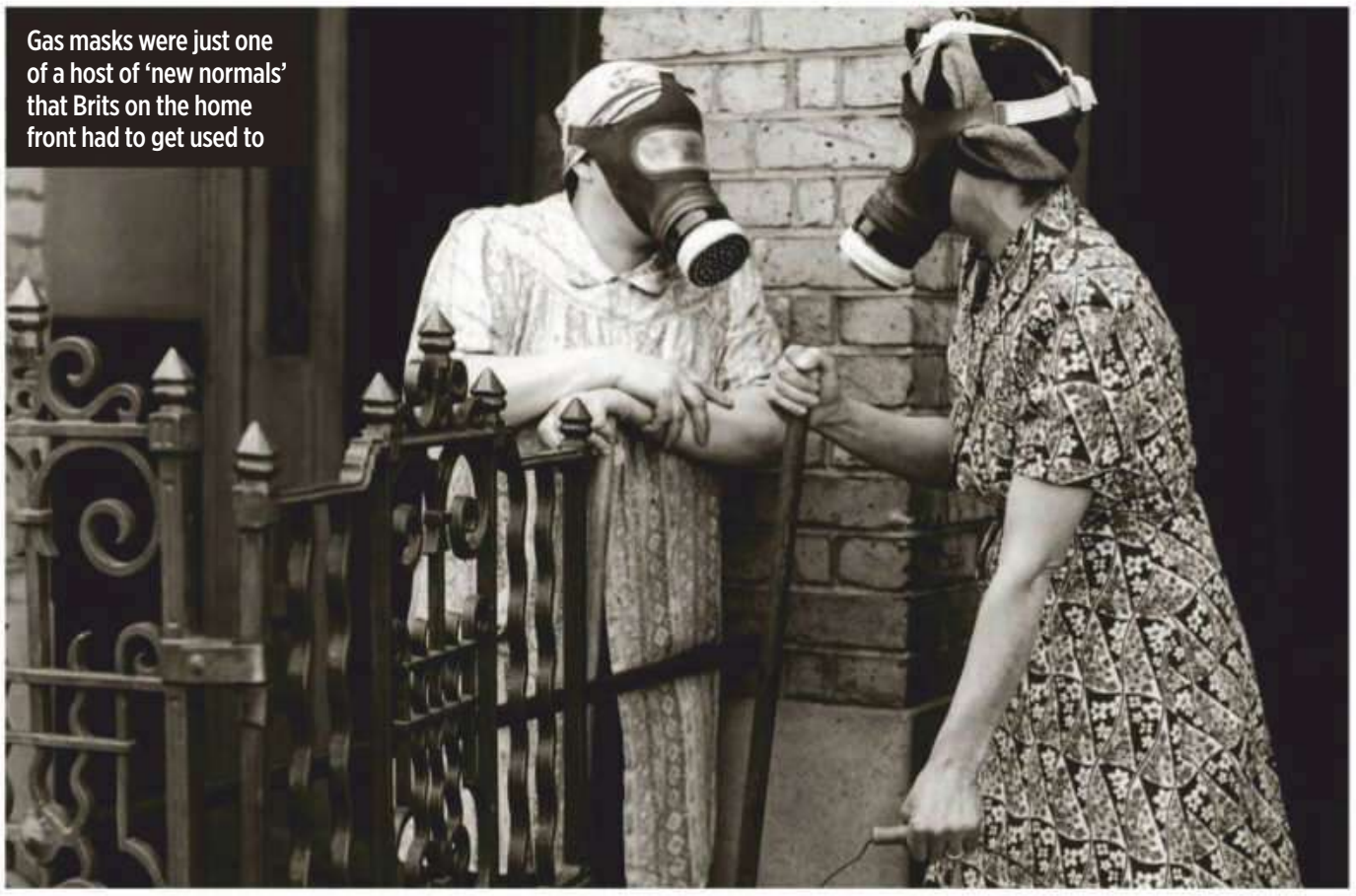
WELCOME CHRISTMAS 2020



Gas masks were just one of a host of 'new normals' that Brits on the home front had to get used to

When Britain went to war with Germany in 1939, millions of British men marched off into the unknown to fight for king and country, not knowing if they would ever return. **But what was life like for those left behind in Blighty?** It's a question we consider in this month's essential guide, which explores World War II from the perspective of British civilians on the home front – from rationing and shortages, to the terrors of aerial bombings and the evacuation of millions of children and vulnerable people. Turn to page 26 to find out more.

More than 450 years earlier, another bitter conflict was tearing Britain apart: the Wars of the Roses, fought between the houses of Lancaster and York for the English throne. Ultimately, King Richard III lost his crown, and life, at the battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, paving the way for the Tudor dynasty. But **what might England have looked like had the much-maligned monarch emerged victorious** on the battlefield? Find out on page 70.

Elsewhere, **we explore the strange world of medieval magic,** with its weird and wonderful spells and superstitions (*page 65*); discover iconic posters that have made history – from 1970s political propaganda, to 17th-century 'Wanted' posters (*page 60*). We also **take a whistlestop tour of the ancient Greek Peloponnesian War** (*page 21*) and find out why French Protestants rebelled against their king in 1620 (*page 16*).

Finally, there's still time to take advantage of our **Christmas subscription offer and receive a book worth up to £30!** Turn to page 24 for more details.

I hope you all have a very healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

THIS MONTH'S BIG NUMBERS

7
The age a Spartan boy would be sent away from his family to train as a warrior.

1.5m
The number of children evacuated during Operation Pied Piper, in September 1939.

4,584
The number of looting cases heard by the Old Bailey during the London Blitz.

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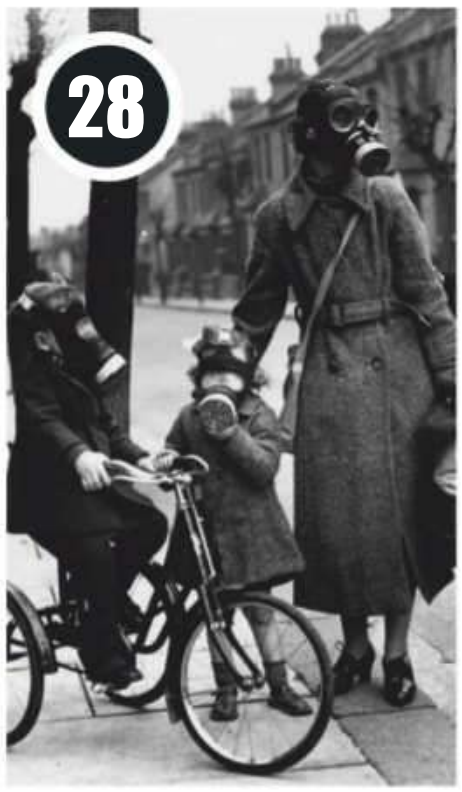
▲ Will we ever know the true story of King Arthur?

▲ Coca-Cola adopted this festive fellow in the 1930s

GETTY IMAGES X9, ALAMY X3

◀ Turkey was out, but Christmas celebrations with friends and family were definitely in

▲ Waste not, want not was the message of the day



▲ Gas masks were an essential wardrobe addition

▲ Women stepped into traditionally male roles

▲ Children were packed off to the safety of the country

▲ The medieval world was awash with tales of witches and magic

▲ Richard III came within inches of victory at Bosworth

EVERY MONTH

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SNAPSHOTS

1978
PUT HIM ON THE NAUGHTY LIST

All the Santa Clauses helping out the big guy – he's very busy every December, after all – are meant to bring good cheer and encourage charitable giving at this special time of year. But in the case of this Jolly Saint Nick, it's less "Ho Ho Ho" and more "How How How… do you plead?" A Summit County Sheriff's Deputy pats down John Kaufman after he is arrested on assault charges. While collecting money in Akron, Ohio, Kaufman allegedly assaulted someone who had complained that he was soliciting contributions in – according to the police report – "an aggressive manner".

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

1966 FIGHTING THE FLORENCE FLOOD

An art restorer examines some of the ruined paintings of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. On 4 November 1966, the Arno river burst its banks after an especially wet few days, flooding the Renaissance city. At least 100 people were killed in the deluge and thousands were made homeless. The river waters cascaded into museums, galleries, archives and churches, destroying countless priceless treasures, from books to statues and paintings. Within days, however, Florence was filled with experts and volunteers – many of them foreign art students – tirelessly working to save what they could, which earned them the nickname 'Mud Angels'.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

1922 KNIGHTS AGAINST THE KKK

This is not – as it might first appear – an image of Ku Klux Klan members; these individuals are actually members of an anti-KKK group. Resurgent since 1915, the Klan reached its peak in the 1920s with an estimated four million members across the US, using violence, fear and misinformation to push its white supremacist and bigoted views. But a secret order, called the Tiger's Eye, formed to join the fight against the white robe and white pointed hood-wearing KKK members with their own knights, who dressed in all black, with a large eye on the front of their robes. Little is known about the group, which newspapers referred to as the "invisible jungle". Here, several Tiger's Eye knights sign in a new member.

GETTY IMAGES

THINGS WE LEARNED THIS MONTH....

RECENT HISTORY HEADLINES THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE

LOST 650-YEAR-OLD BRIDGE FOUND

An important Scottish medieval bridge has been rediscovered after being submerged in a river for centuries. The old Ancrum Bridge in the Borders was originally built over the river Teviot during the reign of 14th century king David II. It stood for 400 years and carried the Via Regia (the King's Way) between Edinburgh and Jedburgh. Archaeologists have spent the past two years investigating the bridge and have found the stone cutwater platforms and oak timbers that once supported the bridge. This find is the oldest dated remains of a bridge to be found in its original position in Scotland.

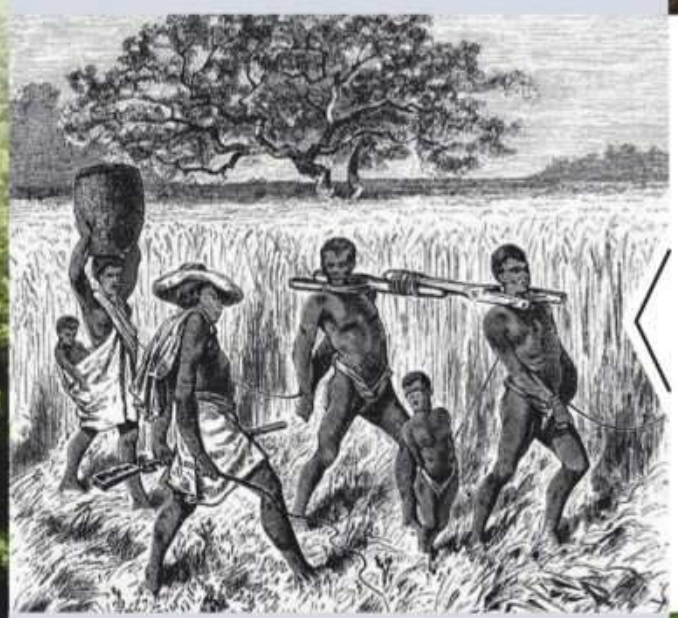
G PARKHOUSE X2, BORDERS ARCHAEOLOGY X1, GETTY IMAGES X2, UNIVERSITY OF READING X2, OORLOGSMUSEUM OVERLOON X1

MUSEUMS GUARD AGAINST NAZI THEFTS

Thefts of Nazi memorabilia from museums across the Netherlands have prompted a tightening on security. World War II memorabilia is in high demand and over the past few months museums in Ossendrecht and Beek have been targeted, with an SS uniform and a German paratroopers rifle amongst the stolen items. Many Dutch museums are now removing some items from display including Auschwitz's Book of the Dead (*pictured right*), which was on loan to Overloon War Museum. No arrests have been made so far in regards to any of the thefts.

FURY OF HENRY VIII UNCOVERED

A warrant held in the National Archives has revealed how Henry VIII planned the execution of his second wife, Anne Boleyn, down to the last detail. Instructions for the constable of the Tower of London stated that the King had been "moved by pity" to spare Anne the horrifying death of being burned. But he continued: "We, however, command that ... the head of the same Anne shall be ... cut off." Historian Tracy Borman told *The Observer* that this find reinforced the idea of Henry as a "pathological monster", but that his change of heart would have been seen as a kindness.



WELSH SLAVE TRADE SITES DISCOVERED

A project has unearthed two sites in Wales with links to the slave trade. The first is a home in Rhyl, which once belonged to a priest who inherited the Dominican estate and slaves of his grandfather. Much of the home has been demolished, but a third of it was saved and a plaque put outside where information about its slavery links can be found. The second is the site of a former mansion in Swansea that belonged to a copper baron and well respected architect of the city the mansion was built with the compensation he received when he had to free his Jamaican slaves after abolition.

£4,000

The amount a rare coin of Harold II, found by a teenager in Norfolk, has sold for at auction. The 1066 coin is believed to be one of only three known to exist

'BUTCH' ANGLO-SAXON LEADER FOUND

The remains of an Anglo Saxon warrior have been discovered in a site overlooking the river Thames in Berkshire. The sixth century male skeleton was found buried alongside spears, and a sword with its scabbard. Two years ago, metal detectorists alerted authorities after uncovering bronze bowls at the site and an excavation followed. Dubbed the Marlow Warlord, analysis has revealed that this man was about 6ft tall with plenty of muscle described as "butch" by Dr Gabor Thomas, a specialist in early medieval archaeology at the University of Reading.

Martin (*seen in full Georgian garb*) is not the only one to welcome visitors to the centre – a rendition of Austen does so too

“The costume is not so comfortable in hot weather, as a late-Georgian gentleman is supposed to keep his jacket on”

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X2

Greeter at the Jane Austen Centre, Bath

Martin Salter

The Jane Austen Centre and the city of Bath greet thousands of visitors each year

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO WORKING AS A REENACTOR?

I began working at the Jane Austen Centre after the founding director approached me. He knew me from the Bath Pump Rooms, where I had worked for 10 years as the mid Georgian era pumper responsible for serving the waters. When I saw an opportunity to work for the Jane Austen Centre, which now welcomes more than 150,000 visitors every year, I thought I could help make it a unique and memorable place for every single visitor. Over a decade later, I am still greeting people from all around the world.

DO YOU ENJOY WEARING THE PERIOD OUTFITS, AND WHO MAKES THEM?

I do enjoy wearing the costumes most of the time. It is not so comfortable in hot weather, as a late Georgian gentleman is supposed to keep his jacket on, especially in public, so doing the job is not as easy as you might think. I make all my costumes myself. This way I can tell people about the construction of the garments.

IF YOU COULD PICK ANY OTHER HISTORICAL PERIOD OR PERSON TO REENACT, WHEN AND WHO WOULD IT BE?

This is a difficult question! I have portrayed people of the Roman, medieval, and Victorian periods, as well as the Georgian era, both military characters and civilian. My favourite reenactment memory is when I portrayed Sir Alexander Pendarves [a wealthy landowner and MP in the 17th and 18th centuries] with historian Lucy Worsley for one of her TV programmes.

I think I would like to portray the celebrated 18th century 'dandy' Richard Beau Nash a bit more. The reason being, firstly, I am a very good period dancer, as he was, performing dances ranging from minuets right through to cotillions, quadrilles and waltzes though not all at the same time! Secondly, I sometimes officiate as a period master of ceremonies for period balls and civic events here in Bath, as Nash did. I once portrayed Beau Nash at a reception in London at the German embassy, announcing guests to the Ambassador as they arrived.

Martin seen during the annual Jane Austen Festival in Bath

WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

The best part is entertaining the millions of tourists who come to Bath, especially those who have time to stop for a chat and maybe a look around the Jane Austen Centre. It is nice to think they might be learning some of new facts about Miss Austen.

WHAT IS THE WORST PART OF THE ROLE?

As I am mostly based outside, the worst part is the weather. Most of our ancestors would be more exposed to weather conditions, especially whilst travelling, so standing outside in all weathers does help me to portray the character more realistically.

DO YOU LIKE THE WORKS OF JANE AUSTEN?

I do! Especially the earlier juvenilia that she wrote when she was about 16 years old, in the late-18th century. *Lesley Castle* is a good one; Austen tells the story in the style and format of a personal letter. The book is set in Perthshire, Scotland. Does this mean that Austen once travelled to Scotland?

The story is a bit risqué by today's standards as it involves one of the main characters, Sir George Lesley, marrying a 16 year old girl. Sir George himself is portrayed as being 57 years of age.

Martin can be found at the Jane Austen Centre in Bath
For more information, visit *janeausten.co.uk*

French Huguenots rebel against their king

Words: Emma Slattery Williams

At a General Assembly in December 1620, after decades of persecution and discrimination, the Huguenots French Protestants who followed the teachings of theologian John Calvin declared their intention to create a 'state within the state', in defiance of French king Louis XIII and what they perceived as threats to the Protestant religion. The move sparked a chain of events that would create chaos and violence for decades to come. But trouble for the Huguenots had been brewing long before this rebellious act.

Seventeenth century France was predominantly Roman Catholic, but since the European Reformation which had begun in the early 16th century Protestantism had slowly grown in popularity in France, boasting more than two million followers by the end of the 16th century. These French Protestants were known as Huguenots.

ABOVE: **The Massacre of Vassy is seen as the spark that set off the Wars of Religion**
INSET: **Louis XIII of France; he was often swayed in his decisions by his advisor, Cardinal Richelieu**

GETTY IMAGES X5

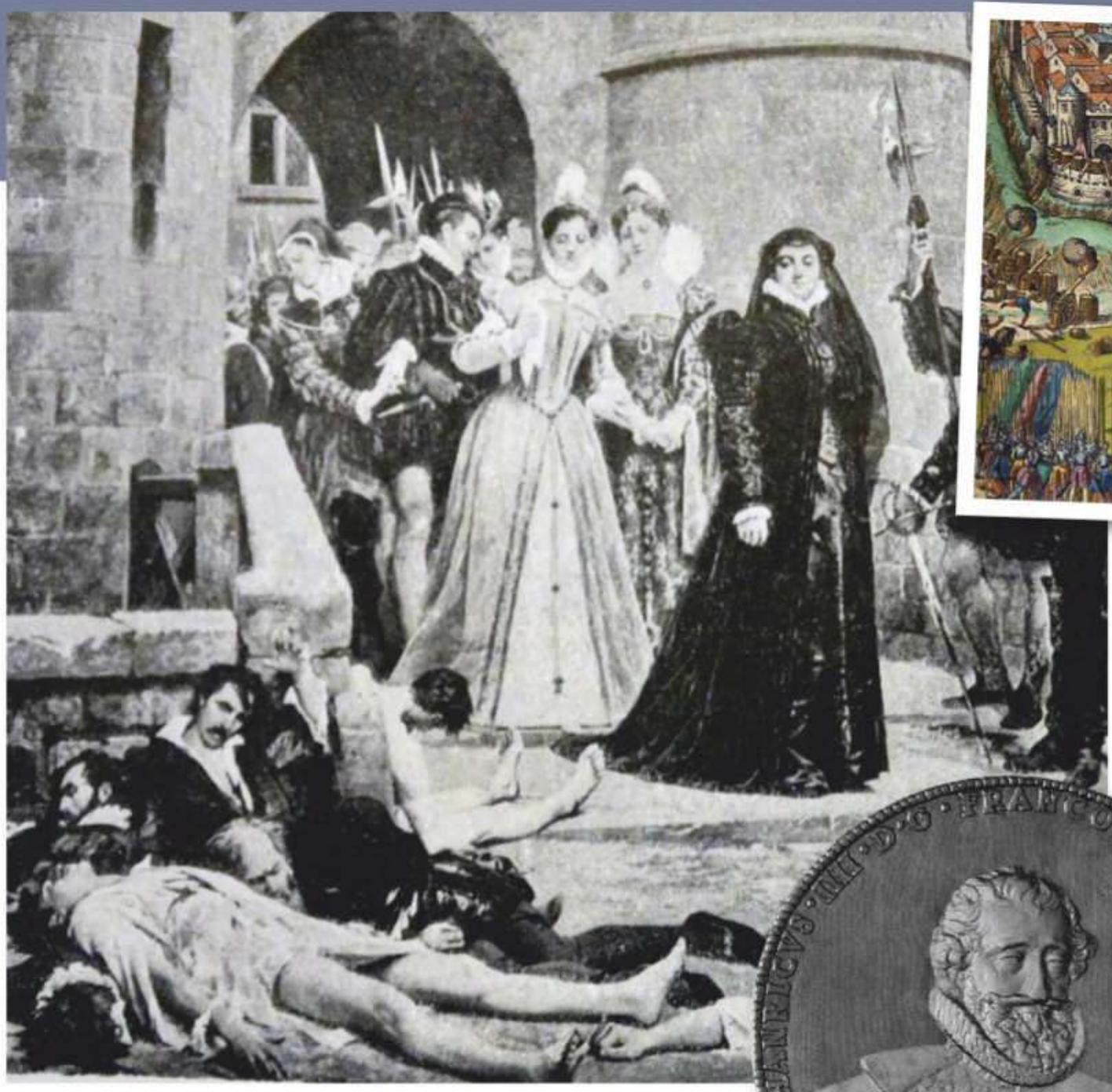
ENDLESS WAR

During the late 16th century, the clash of Catholic and Protestant religious beliefs came to a head with a series of conflicts known collectively as the French Wars of Religion, a period between 1562 and 1598 during which there were eight civil wars. Other European countries such as England and Spain became embroiled in these conflicts: England which had broken with Rome twice, first in the 1530s and again in 1559 wanted to prevent a Catholic victory, while staunchly Catholic Spain wished to see a Protestant defeat.

The growing power of the French nobility was another underlying cause of these conflicts. The sudden death of Henry II in 1559 had seen three of his sons successively take the throne: Francis II, Charles IX and Henry III. Inexperienced and ineffective, these three kings showed little ability in being able to control their French nobles allowing the warring noblemen to vie for places in the line of succession and allowed the seeds of religious rebellion to bloom.

A small act of tolerance towards Protestantism in France came in January 1562 with the Edict of St Germain delivered by Catherine de Medici, France's regent and mother of Charles IX, who was then 11 years old. The edict was a decree of tolerance that recognised the rights of Huguenots to worship, providing that they did so in private, not within towns, and not at night. But less than two months later, on 1 March, Francis, Duke of Guise, sent his troops to the town of Vassy, where a group of Huguenots were worshipping in a barn.

> "Between 1562 and 1598, there were eight civil wars, known as the French Wars of Religion"



ABOVE: **The royal victory at the Saint-Jean-d'Angély allowed the king to launch his blockade on the Huguenot stronghold of La Rochelle**

LEFT: **Catherine de Medici walks among the dead after the St Bartholomew's Day massacre**

The solders massacred more than 80 Huguenots, sparking the first of the Wars of Religion. Horrific acts of violence would be committed by both sides, across France, and the Duke of Guise was eventually assassinated. An uneasy peace was reached in March 1563 with the Edict of Amboise, which guaranteed the Huguenots their religious privileges.

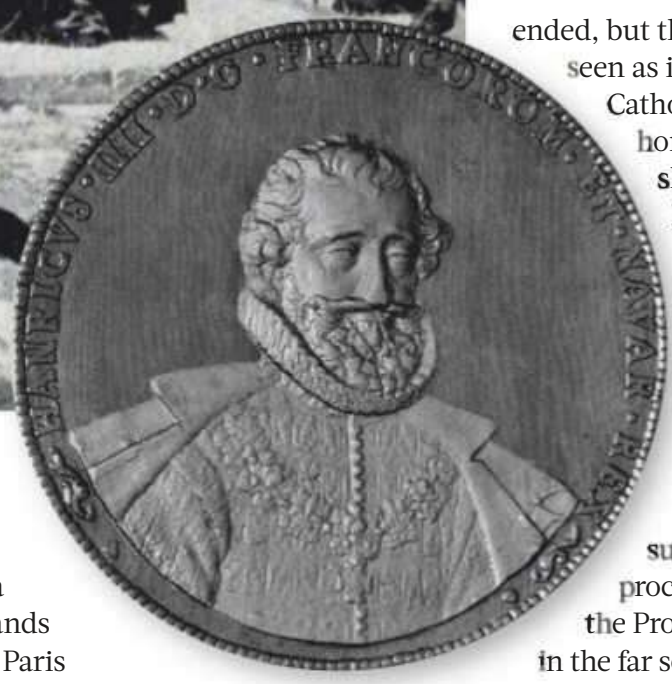
Over the next few years, further skirmishes saw the Huguenots take up arms against the Crown, and the massacres of both Catholics and Protestants. Many Huguenots fled France during this time, with one group establishing a colony in modern-day Jacksonville, Florida, in 1564.

A DEADLY MARRIAGE

In August 1572, Catherine de Medici arranged the marriage of her daughter, Marguerite of Valois, to the Huguenot Henry of Navarre of the House of Bourbon. Henry was next in line to the French throne after Charles IX's younger brothers – one another Henry, and Francis – and Catherine hoped that an alliance with the powerful Bourbon dynasty would placate the Huguenots for a time. Thousands of Protestants gathered in Paris for the wedding and the city became a powder keg of tension. The Royal Council met and hatched a plan to assassinate some of the Huguenot leaders to prevent what they deemed a Protestant takeover – thousands of Huguenots were killed in Paris during what is now known as the St Bartholomew's Day massacre, with violence spreading across the country over the following weeks. The Edict of Boulogne in July 1573 halted the bloodshed and restricted the Huguenots to worshipping in just three French towns: La Rochelle, Montauban and Nîmes.

Henry of Navarre ascended the throne in 1589, becoming Henry IV of France, and converted to Catholicism in 1593 as a way of consolidating his power. This ensured the favour of the majority of his subjects, but aroused the suspicion and dismay of the Huguenots.

The Edict of Nantes in 1598 was the greatest step towards religious toleration that France had seen. Protestants were now treated equally before the law and had the right to worship freely in private, and publicly in 200 towns that they could garrison. The Crown guaranteed their safety and subsidised the cost of their garrisons. Henry IV saw this attempt at civil unity as an exchange for the Huguenots accepting his Catholic faith. The French Wars of Religion had officially ended, but the Huguenots were still seen as inferior by France's mainly-Catholic population, which was horrified at the prospect of showing toleration towards Huguenots, let alone their new royal protection. For the rest of his reign, Henry IV tried to ensure that the Edict of Nantes was upheld, but those who came after him would be far less tolerant.



ABOVE: **Henry IV of France converted to Catholicism in order to keep control over the country, but showed tolerance towards the Protestants**

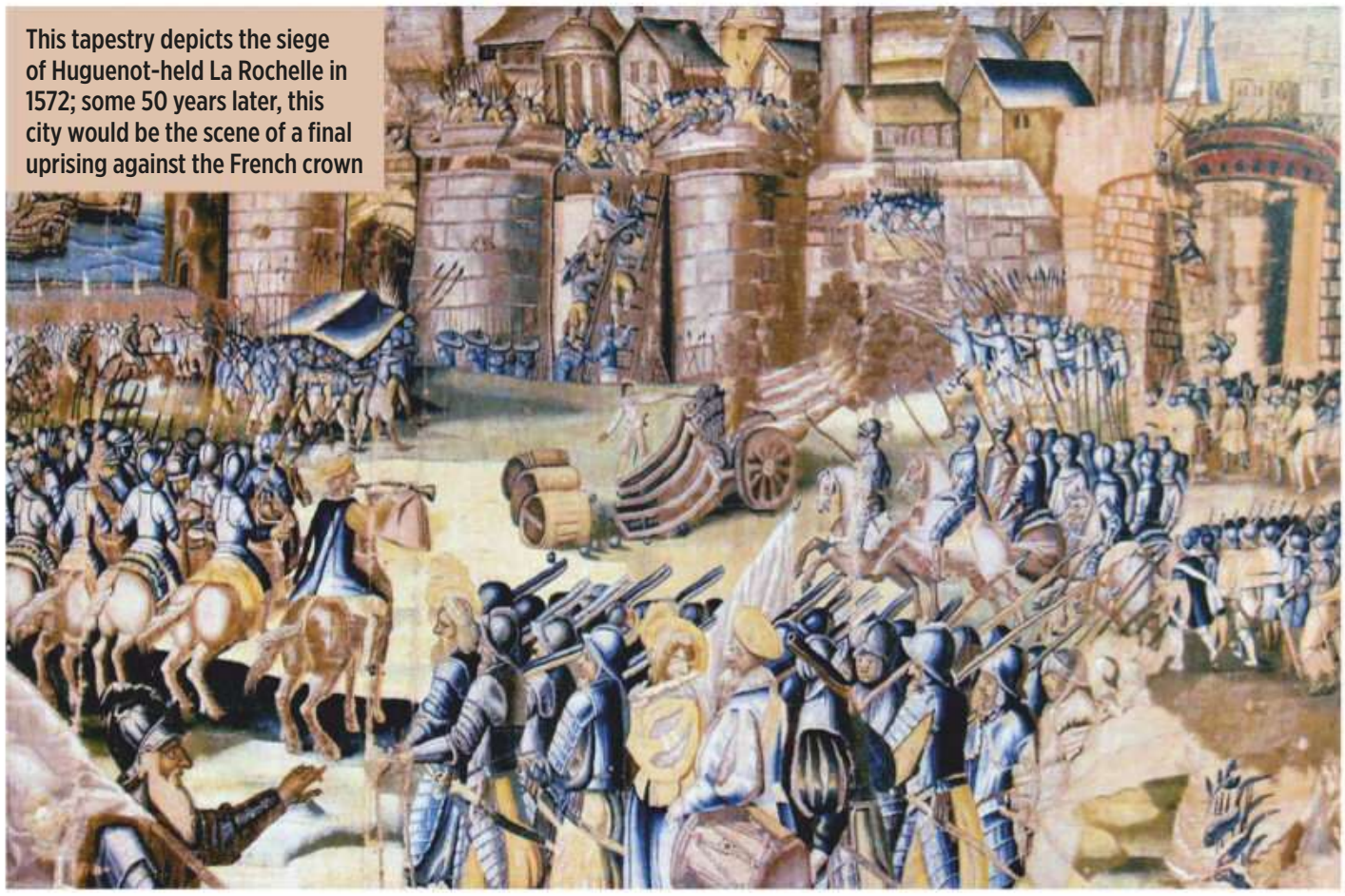
In 1617, Henry IV's successor, Louis XIII, proclaimed the annexation of the Protestant Principality of Béarn in the far south of France – which had been declared an independent principality in the 14th century – and restored Béarn's Catholic property rights in 1620. Fearing the loss of their religious privileges, a Huguenot General Assembly – beginning in November 1620 – was called at La Rochelle. During the meeting a decision was taken to defy Louis XIII, who had established an all-Catholic government, and create a Protestant 'state within a state', with its own independent taxes and military. This act of defiance was led by Henri Duc de Rohan, who had become the leader of the Huguenots. It was a decision that would lead to three rebellions over the next decade and ultimately see Protestantism almost completely eradicated in France.

FAITH AND FIRE

Louis XIII interpreted the decision at La Rochelle as an open rebellion to his authority and gathered his forces to march south – first capturing the Huguenot city of Saumur and then defeating Rohan's brother, Benjamin, Duke of Soubise, during the Siege of Saint-Jean-d'Angély on 24 June 1621.

THIS MONTH... 1620

ANNIVERSARIES THAT HAVE MADE HISTORY



This tapestry depicts the siege of Huguenot-held La Rochelle in 1572; some 50 years later, this city would be the scene of a final uprising against the French crown

The Duke of Buckingham sent his fleet to relieve the Huguenots under siege in 1627

A siege of Montauban followed, but Louis was unsuccessful in capturing the city. His siege of Nègrepelisse in 1622, however, saw almost all of the inhabitants of that Protestant stronghold killed and the city burned to ground. The Treaty of Montpellier was signed later that year, which allowed the Huguenots to keep their fortresses at Montauban and La Rochelle, but ordered the one at Montpellier and the royal stronghold of Fort Louis, just outside La Rochelle, to be dismantled.

Louis did not uphold the treaty, though, creating further resentment among the Huguenots. The influential Cardinal Richelieu, who would become the King's chief minister in 1624, advised Louis to refortify Fort Louis. Richelieu was wary of the Huguenot's military power and saw them as a threat to the country's stability, but he also knew that any unwarranted violence or persecution directed towards the Huguenots could affect France's alliances with Protestant nations in Europe. Nevertheless, the inhabitants of La Rochelle sensed the threat of an imminent siege.

In February 1625, the Duke of Soubise led another rebellion against Louis and occupied the island of Ré, off the west coast of France near La Rochelle. He then successfully attacked the royal fleet during the battle of Blavet, and took command of the Atlantic coast from Bordeaux to Nantes. The Duke's successes caused him to give himself the title of Admiral of the Protestant Church. La Rochelle voted to join Soubise but, by September, the Huguenot fleet and Soubise had both been defeated and the island of Ré returned to royal power.

> "The Huguenots were now seen as heretics and persecution against them was now officially sanctioned"

It took a long period of negotiations before the Treaty of Paris was finally agreed between the King and the city of La Rochelle, on 5 February 1626 – the Huguenots retained their religious freedom, but limits were imposed and La Rochelle was no longer permitted to keep a naval fleet.

The final Huguenot rebellion of the 17th century was sparked by an English intervention – England and France had been enemies on and off for centuries, and Charles I of (Protestant) England was happy to assist in an upheaval against his French counterpart. Charles sent the Duke of Buckingham with an 80-strong fleet to assist the Huguenots, and in June 1627, the English landed near Ré, beginning the Anglo-French War. Buckingham eventually ran out of money and support, and returned to England after defeat at the siege of Saint Martin de Ré.

The final stage of this bitter struggle was the siege of La Rochelle, which began in September 1627, with Richelieu commanding the French troops. The populace resisted for almost 14 months under their mayor, Jean Guiton and with a little help from the English before having to surrender in October 1628. By this time, the population of La Rochelle had decreased from around 27,000 to 5,000 as a result of famine, disease and violence. Peace was officially achieved with the Peace of Alès, signed in June 1629 this time the Huguenots' right to religious toleration was acknowledged, but they were forbidden from holding assemblies or fortresses. Louis could not risk further threat to his authority.

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen was a human rights document created during the French Revolution

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In 1685, Louis XIII's son, Louis XIV, enacted the Edict of Fontainebleau, which revoked the Edict of Nantes and essentially made Protestantism in France illegal. The Huguenots were now seen as heretics and persecution against them was officially sanctioned – although this had been happening for many years, unofficially. The children of Protestant parents were removed and given to Catholic families, and many Protestants were forcibly baptised into the Catholic faith. Protestants were soon banned from entering professions such as medicine and the law – almost everything was done to force people to convert. All Protestant ministers were banished, but Protestants themselves were banned from leaving France, often under pain of death.

MASS EXODUS

Thousands of Huguenots, however, did flee France, with the majority settling in the Dutch Republic, Prussia and England. Some French cities lost as many as half of their working populations, with many educated and skilled craftsmen, such as those working in the textile industry, among those who left.

Protestant European countries were outraged at France's new religious policy and the brutality with which it had been enforced. This furthered the idea that France and Louis XIV must be opposed and a Grand Alliance was eventually established in 1686 by Leopold I, Holy Roman Emperor, and from 1689 was supported by William III of the Dutch Republic. Although religious tolerance would increase over the years in France, it wasn't until the French Revolution and the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen* in 1789 that full religious freedom was achieved.

CHRISTMAS ANNIVERSARIES

A LOOK BACK AT THREE OTHER EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT CHRISTMAS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

25 December 1776

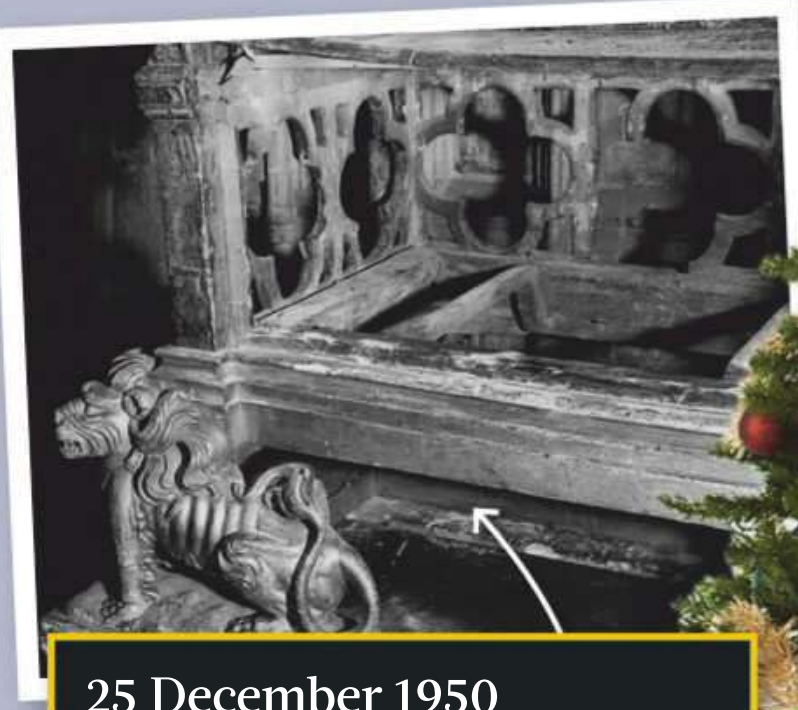
WASHINGTON CROSSES THE DELAWARE RIVER

Under the cover of darkness, General George Washington takes his troops across the Delaware River to launch a surprise attack on troops of Hessian soldiers who were fighting for the British during the American Revolutionary War. Although only one of his planned crossings took place, this act spurred on the American Colonists and gave them hope that they could achieve victory.

December 1800

ENGLAND'S CHRISTMAS TREE TRADITION IS BORN

We may thank the Victorians for many Christmas traditions we still honour but it was actually Queen Charlotte, wife of George III, who had the first-known Christmas tree installed in England, at Queen's Lodge in Windsor. The German-born queen brought with her the festive decorations of her homeland. Her granddaughter Victoria's marriage to Albert saw the tradition later spread across the country.



25 December 1950

THE STONE OF SCONE IS STOLEN

In the early hours of Christmas Day 1950, the Stone of Scone – a block of sandstone historically used during the coronation of the monarchs of Scotland and now Britain – was stolen from Westminster Abbey by four Glasgow students. It was left four months later on the altar of Arbroath Abbey.

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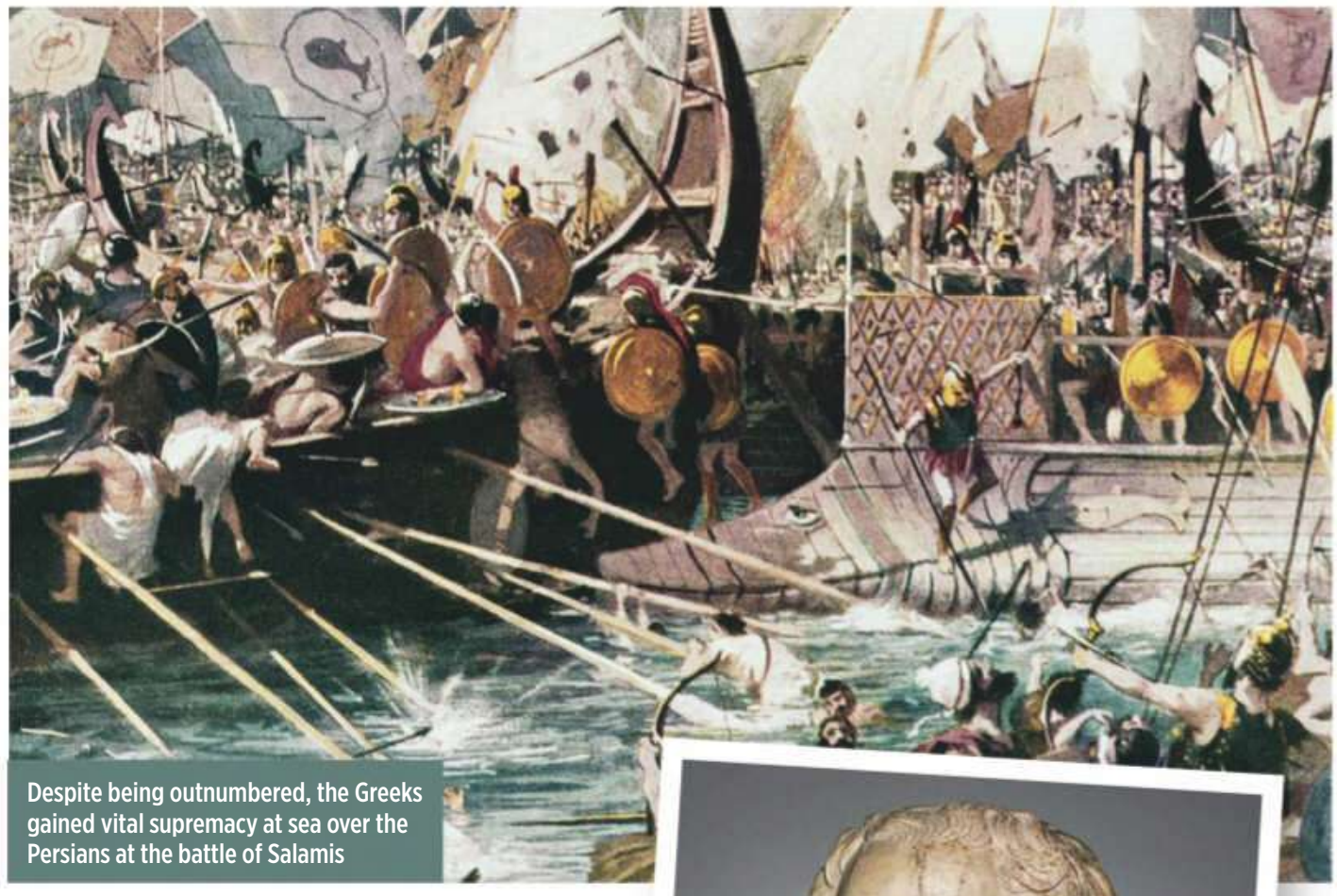
The Peloponnesian War

Words: Jonny Wilkes



Despite being outnumbered, the Greeks gained vital supremacy at sea over the Persians at the battle of Salamis

WHAT AND WHEN WAS THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR?

During the fifth century BC, battles raged on land and at sea in a protracted and bloody conflict between the two leading city-states of Ancient Greece: Athens and Sparta. On one side was the supreme naval power of Athens and on the other the dominant Spartan army, with each heading an alliance that involved nearly every single Greek state. The Peloponnesian War of 431 404 BC would reshape the Hellenic world.

HOW DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE WAR?

The pre eminent account of the war was written by Thucydides, who, despite serving as a general in the Athenian army, is remembered as a forefather of impartial historical study. He began his masterly work, *The History of the Peloponnesian War,* in the first year of the conflict, 431 BC, "believing that it would be a great war and more worthy of relation than any that had preceded it".

Although the war, and Thucydides' work, came to be named after the peninsula of Greece where Sparta and some of its allies were located, the fighting was not confined to the Peloponnese. Battles also devastated the Aegean coastline, the island of Sicily and the Attica region.

WHAT CAUSED ATHENS AND SPARTA TO TURN ON EACH OTHER?

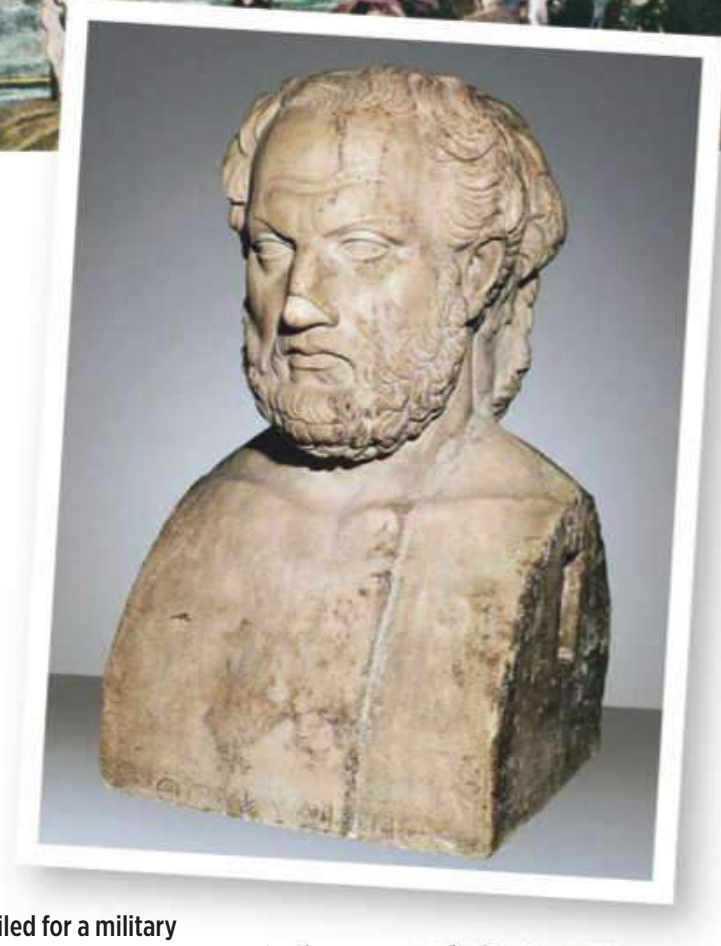
Athens and Sparta had fought side by side against the Persian invasions of Greece by Darius and then his son Xerxes in the early fifth century BC. Allied Greeks defeated them first at Marathon and then at the battles of Salamis, Mycale and Plataea, crushing the invasions.

In the aftermath, in 478 BC, an alliance of Greek states called the Delian League was formed as protection against any future Persian attacks. Hundreds of states joined the Delian League, but it came to be so dominated by Athens that the Athenians effectively turned the alliance into an empire. Circling the Aegean Sea, the Athenian Empire built a huge navy of *triremes* galleys, more than 30 metres long and with three lines of rowers down the length of each side, capable of great speeds making Athens the dominant maritime power in Greece.

> "Hundreds of states joined the Delian League, but it came to be dominated by Athens"

Sparta grew alarmed at Athens' hegemony, which continued to expand due to regular tributes pouring in from across the empire. Athens also planned to rebuild the 'Long Walls' miles of fortifications connecting the city to the harbour of Piraeus so as to offer a link to the sea even at times of siege, making it yet more powerful.

But while Athens ruled the seas, Sparta had long headed its own alliance of states from the Peloponnese and central Greece the Peloponnesian League which commanded a stronger army thanks to much-feared and respected Spartan warriors.



Exiled for a military failure, Athenian general Thucydides went on to write an impartial history of the Peloponnesian War

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WHY WERE THE SPARTANS SUCH GREAT WARRIORS?

The lives of Spartan men were consumed by military service and commitment to ▶

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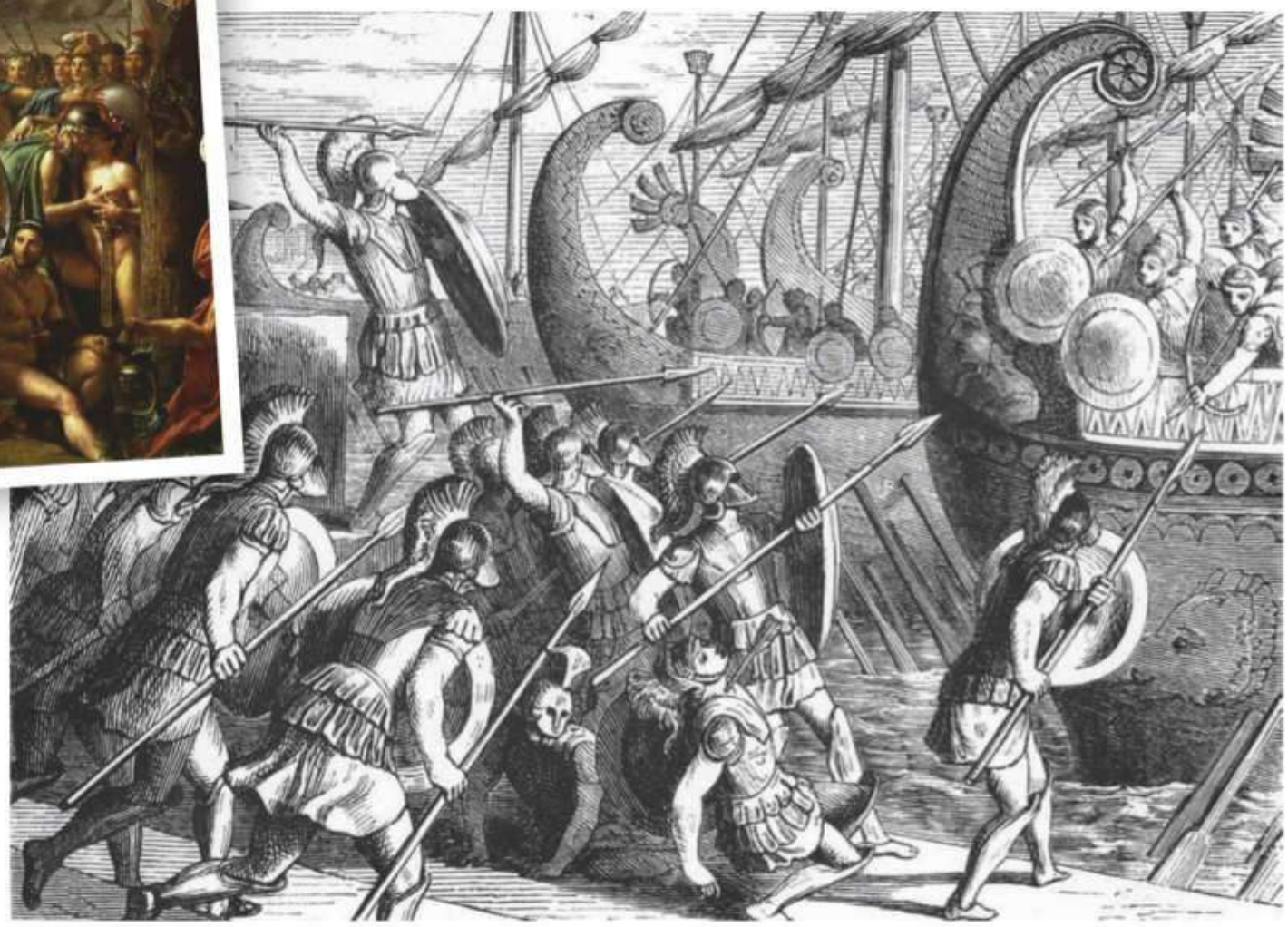

ABOVE: **Spartans, under Brasidas, defend the port of Methone against the Athenians early in the war**

INSET: **Sparta and Athens were once allies and fought together against the Persians. This image depicts Leonidas, the Spartan king who led the Greeks at Thermopylae**

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winning glory in battle. Their constant and brutal training began at the age of seven, when boys would be sent from their families to undergo the ritual of *agoge*, a form of boot camp. This turned them into a fiercely disciplined and highly trained fighting force, feared across all Greece. During the Persian invasions of the fifth century BC, Sparta had shown its might when 300 warriors and an alliance of Greek city states, led by King Leonidas, had fought the Persian army at the battle of Thermopylae.

HOW DID THE WAR BREAK OUT?

Fighting had raged for decades before the Peloponnesian War, as Athens and Sparta got involved in the conflicts of other states or exploited circumstances to further their own advantage. This period, sometimes called the First Peloponnesian War, ended with the Thirty Years' Peace in the winter of 446/45 BC although the uneasy peace lasted only half that time.

Athens continued its aggression during the 430s, siding against Corinth, an ally of Sparta, by sending ships to assist its own ally, Corcyra, at the battle of Sybota. Athens then further tested the limits of the peace treaty by laying siege to the Corinthian colony of Poteidaia and issuing, in c432 BC, the Megarian Decree, which essentially imposed a trade embargo on another long time Spartan ally, Megara. Even then, Sparta did not immediately retaliate, as it honoured the peace and was unready for a long conflict. But war was brewing.

WHAT WAS SPARTA'S PLAN?

When war finally broke out in 431 BC, Sparta had the lofty aims of liberating Greece from Athenian tyranny and dismantling its empire. Attacking over land, King Archidamus II led an army of hoplites, armed with spears and shields, into the Attica peninsula, leaving destruction and chaos in his wake and robbing Athens of vital resources. He hoped to provoke the enemy and draw them out from their fortified walls into open battle, but Athens refused to take the bait thanks to the guidance of influential statesman Pericles. Instead, Athens used its superior navy to harass Spartan ships and make its own assaults in the Peloponnese.

WERE THE ATHENIANS RIGHT NOT TO INVITE OPEN BATTLE?

Even though it may have been regarded as cowardice by the enemy, remaining behind the walls was a savvy move. But disaster struck when Athens was ravaged by plague. Outbreaks wiped out a huge proportion of the population perhaps as many as a quarter, or around 100,000 people and decimated the Athenian leadership. Pericles himself succumbed in 429 BC.

The plague is thought to have come from sub Saharan Africa, reaching Athens through the port of Piraeus; the added burden of people from Attica arriving to escape the Spartans only served to spread the disease faster. The fortifications that were keeping Athens safe in war were now keeping the plague inside. The Spartans did not approach the city for fear of catching it themselves, but they simultaneously refused the Athenian calls for peace.

Yet Sparta failed to take advantage of a much-weakened Athens as its campaigns on land and sea suffered setbacks. Then when the island of Lesbos looked like rising up in revolt against Athens, which resulted in a blockade being put in place, the Spartans failed to come to their assistance and the island surrendered. In 427 BC, however, Sparta did capture the strategic Athenian ally of Plataea following a lengthy siege.

DID EITHER SIDE GAIN THE ADVANTAGE?

With the cautious Pericles gone (he died in 429 BC) and the hawkish Cleon taking over, Athens embarked on a more aggressive strategy. One of the finest generals of the day, Demosthenes, commanded raids on the Peloponnese; he was given a fleet with which he occupied and fortified the remote headland of Pylos; and repelled the assault to win it back. The building of outposts on the Peloponnese created a different problem for Sparta: the Athenians used them to attract runaway *helots*, or slaves, meaning there were fewer people to work the fields and a higher chance of a slave revolt.

As more battles went against them Sparta began suing for peace itself, until terms became more favourable when

it achieved victories of its own. The most significant came in 422 BC with the capture of the Athenian colony of Amphipolis. The man Athens had sent to protect it was Thucydides – for his failure, he was exiled and dedicated his time to his impartial history of the war. The distinguished Spartan general Brasidas died in the fight for Amphipolis, as did Athens' Cleon, leaving the way clear for those, on both sides, who desired peace.

HOW LONG DID PEACE LAST?

The resulting Peace of Nicias – named after the man from Athens sent to negotiate the treaty – was signed in 421 BC. Intended to last 50 years, it ended up lasting just six. In fact, fighting never really stopped, as both sides spent those years trying to win over smaller states, or watched on as allies formed coalitions of their own and kept the conflict going.

In 415 BC, war officially resumed when Athens launched a massive assault on Sicily with the aim of capturing Syracuse, a powerful city-state which controlled a large share of Mediterranean trade. If successful, Athens could claim its abundant resources.

The expedition started badly, however, as the Athenian commander Alcibiades, who had been accused of the serious crime of impiety and ordered back to Athens, defected to Sparta. Syracuse, with Spartan aid, broke the blockade around Sicily and time and time again defeated the invading army until it was crushed, even in a sea battle.

By 413 BC, the few who had not been killed or enslaved were forced to retreat. The invasion was a total disaster for Athens, a major blow to morale and prestige.

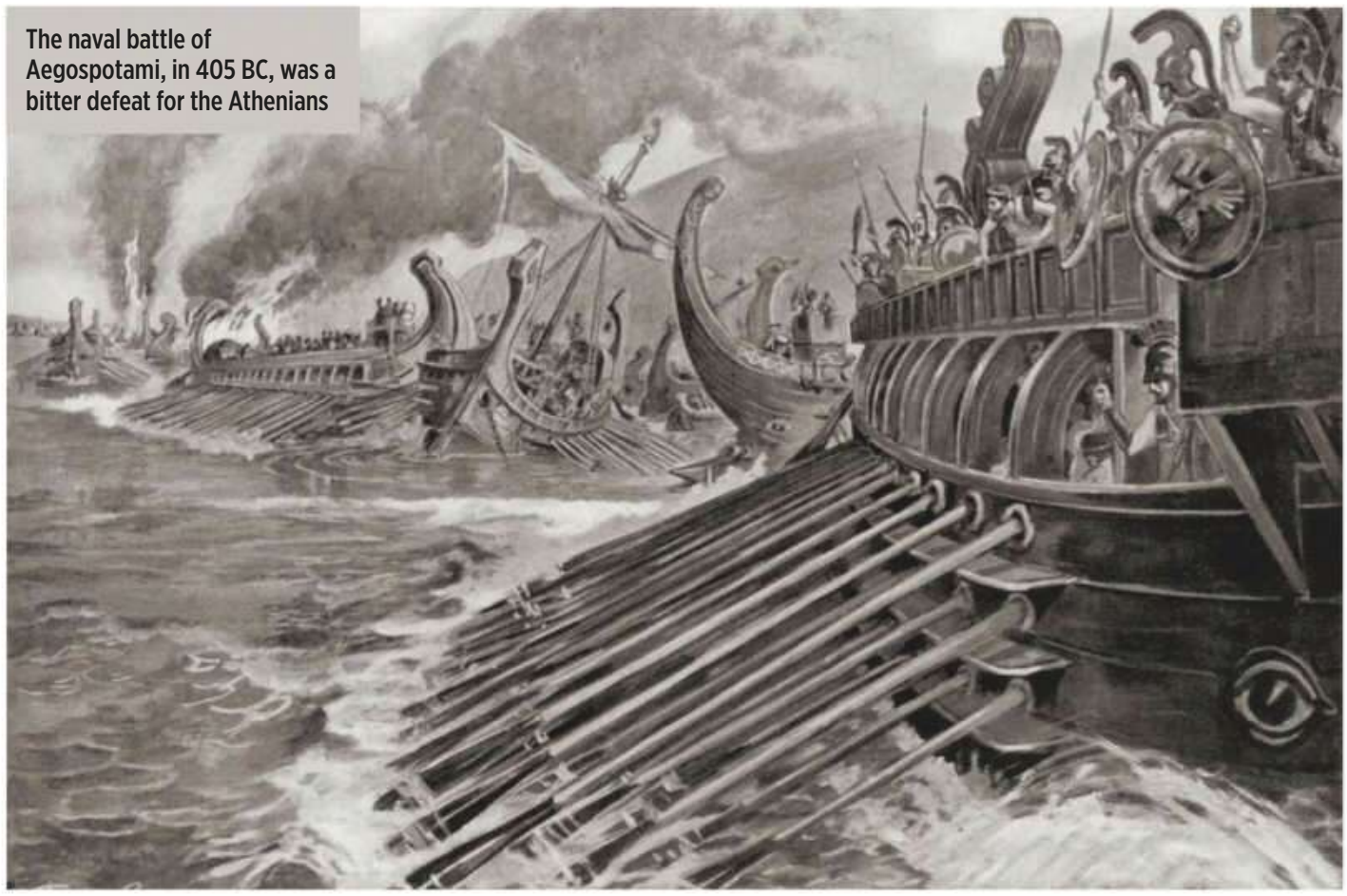
The Athenian assault on Syracuse in 415–13 BC was an unmitigated disaster

DID THE FAILURE OF THE SICILY EXPEDITION SWING THE TIDE?

Back in Greece, Sparta certainly looked to be closer to victory over the next few years as it occupied Attica once again and several revolts broke out against Athenian rule. Athens itself was in political turmoil as governments were overthrown and replaced. What's more, the Persians had chosen to back Sparta as they saw the Athenian empire as a threat.

And yet, the Spartans and their allies were slow to act, allowing Athens to rebuild and put into service its reserve navy. Athens started winning naval battles again, so much so that by 406 BC, it had actually won back parts of the empire thought to have been lost.

> "It would be a naval victory that won the Peloponnesian War after 17 years, but not an Athenian one"



The naval battle of Aegospotami, in 405 BC, was a bitter defeat for the Athenians

HOW DID THE WAR FINALLY END?

It would be a naval victory that won the Peloponnesian War after 27 years, but not an Athenian one. Sparta managed to build an imposing fleet of hundreds of triremes, thanks to Persian money and resources, and put to sea. In 405 BC, the fleet under the skilled command of Lysander crushed the Athenians at the battle of Aegospotami, near the Hellespont. Lysander then advanced to Athens itself and forced the city state to surrender the following year. The victorious Spartans ordered the Long Walls to be demolished, forbade Athens from building a fleet larger than 12 ships and demanded Athens pay them tribute. The Athenian empire was no more; Sparta had emerged as the dominant power in Greece.

WHAT HAPPENED IN GREECE AFTER THE WAR?

Sparta's position did not last long. It became embroiled in too many conflicts for its army to handle, and its hold over Greece ended with defeat by Thebes and its Boeotian League allies at the battle of Leuctra in 371 BC.

Nearly a century of the Peloponnesian War, followed by continued fighting and divisions, had left Greece vulnerable. This instability was exploited by Philip II of Macedon, who invaded and defeated the city states laying the foundations of a Macedonian empire, which would grow to an unprecedented size in the reign of his son, Alexander the Great.

LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4 Melvyn Bragg discusses Thucydides and his history of the Peloponnesian War an episode of *In Our Time*.
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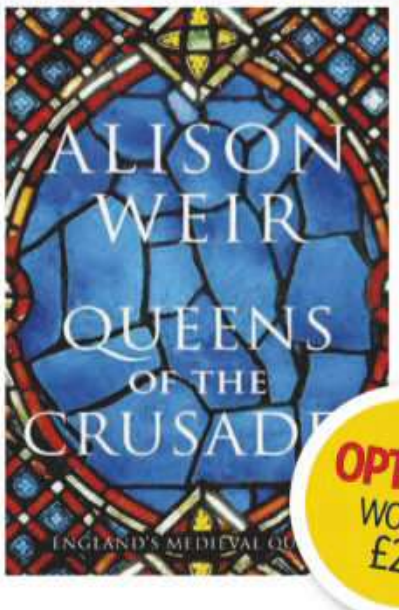

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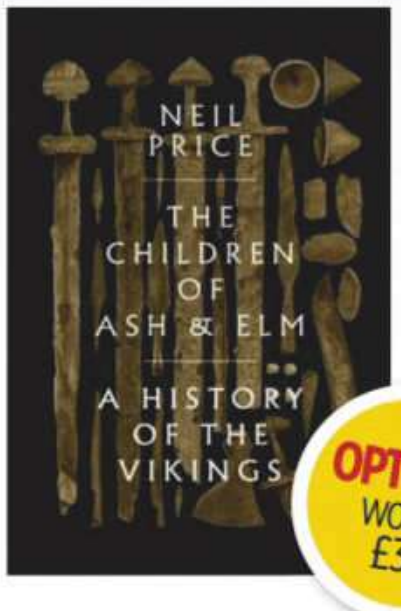

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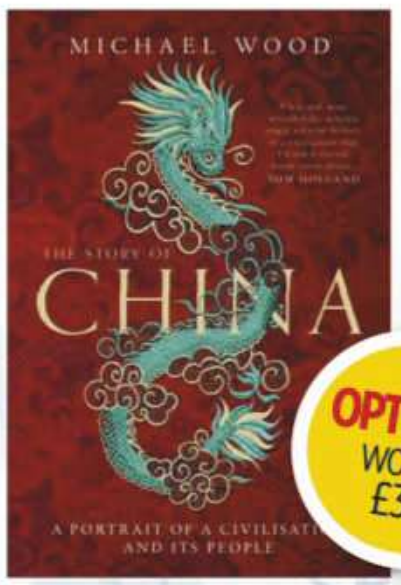

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YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT

The home front in Britain has an almost nostalgic feel to it, with countless films, books and television programmes that give us a glimpse into this wartime world. People are shown struggling on through bombings, suffering food shortages and living with the knowledge of the terrible battles going on just across the Channel, yet there's also a sense of communities coming together and a 'keep calm and carry on' attitude.

But how accurate is this portrayal? World War II may not have reached the shores of Britain in the same way as it did neighbouring France, but the threat was still very real in the form of the Luftwaffe.

In this essential guide, we'll get to grips with how the everyday Brit coped with rationing and air raids, and uncover what it was really like to live on the home front. How important was 'Blitz spirt' and how did families celebrate Christmas during a war? Plus, we explore how criminals took advantage of desperate situations and hear real stories from those who were evacuated from their homes and families. We begin over the page with a Q&A with historian Daniel Todman...

28 Everything you wanted to know about the home front
Historian Daniel Todman gives us a rundown of what the home front experience was like for Britons

34 10 top tips for surviving on the home front
With the introduction of rationing for food and clothing, how did people stay healthy and stylish?

38 Women at war
World War II brought massive societal changes to everyone in Britain, but especially women as they took on new roles

42 Evacuation
For their safety, thousands of children and vulnerable people were moved from Britain's towns and cities to the countryside

45 Rationing
Why was rationing brought in and what unusual foods did Brits resort to eating to make up for shortages?

48 Make do and mend
Thriftiness was encouraged: new clothes were out, sewing and mending were in

49 A wartime Christmas
The festive season felt very different during wartime – here's how people celebrated

50 Crime on the home front
Ten ways in which crime flourished on the home front

54 The Blitz
Between 1940 and 1941, Britain suffered terrifying bombing raids that seemed to have no end in sight...

DANIEL TODMAN is professor of modern history at Queen Mary University of London. He specialises in the history of Britain and the British Commonwealth and Empire during the world wars. His works include: *The Great War: Myth and Memory*

A warden gives directions to a mother and her two children during a drill in Southend in 1941. The threat of a gas attack on Britain was perceived to be a very real one

PODCAST

Listen to the full interview with Daniel Todman on the History Extra podcast *historyextra.com/podcast*

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE HOME FRONT

Daniel Todman answers key questions about life in Britain during World War II

INTERVIEW BY CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

Q: What do we mean by 'home front'?

A: When we talk about the home front, we tend to have in our minds a clear division between a fighting front, where combat and service personnel – mostly men – fought, and the home front, which was less militarised. But in reality, the lines between both fronts were far more blurry.

One of the things that happens in Britain during World War II – and this was typical of a wider European experience – is that the home front also becomes a fighting front, exposed to attacks by air and sea. From 1940, there was a real perceived threat of invasion, and an awareness that the so-called home front could well transform into a land fighting front.

From an early stage in the war – and escalating as it goes on – the British home front was a site of military action against Germany: bombers were flying out, and small boats and ships were also leaving. And then, of course, in 1944, Britain becomes the major base for D-Day preparations – shipping both men and equipment to France. So, this was a time when the distinction between home and fighting fronts was much more blurred.

Q: How soon after war broke out did life start to change on the home front?

A: In a way, things started to change before war was even declared. Local authorities were instructed to spend money on air raid precautions from 1937, and that, I think, was the point at which, for lots of people, war seemed imminent.

Another key moment was in 1938, during the Munich crisis [after annexing Austria, Hitler began demanding parts of Czechoslovakia], when gas masks started to be issued to the civilian population and the armed forces were mobilised. And then there was obviously a moment after war was actually declared when a whole new set of restrictions came in. But there's no single point where we suddenly see a transition to a militarised home front or even a war state – it's more a process of escalation, which continues throughout the conflict. But, for all that action doesn't arrive immediately, for most of the Britain, right from the start of the conflict, there is a sense that something feels different.

Q: How did people feel about Britain entering another conflict so soon after World War I, and the associated restrictions that came with it?

A: Historically, there has always been resentment against greater controls on civilian freedoms, and as the war progressed a sense of resentment did develop around restrictions on consumption. But at the same time, this was a war that enjoyed wide-scale, popular support. If you compare Britain in 1939 to Britain in 1914, there's much less of a division in World War II about whether the war should be fought or whether conscription should be introduced, for ▶

GETTY IMAGES X3

example. In a way, Britain had already been through the key changes associated with war a generation before, so found it much easier to accept a second conflict. And whatever you think of Neville Chamberlain's foreign policy, the way that Britain went to war between 1937 and 1939 created widespread popular acceptance that the war was Hitler's fault. There was a lot of anger about that and a unified sense that Nazism was something that needed to be opposed.

Q: How real was Britain's famous 'Blitz spirit'?

A: It's important to remember that living through the Blitz period wasn't the same for everybody. For those at the epicentre of bombing attacks, these were absolutely terrifying experiences, and any idea that people got through them simply because of some sort of resilience or 'pulling together' is nonsense. And for quite a lot of Britain's population, air raids were events that happened to other people, or something they saw happening on the skyline; not something that they experienced first-hand.

For anyone actually experiencing the aerial attacks, it was often the practicalities of everyday life that affected their ability to carry on: the gas stopping, the electricity being off, being unable to buy food in what was still a very localised system of food shopping, for example. There are cases, particularly in smaller British cities, where you can see almost the opposite of Blitz spirit, with large numbers of people fleeing to escape the bombing. There was actually a lot of concern in central government when this first started to happen, and it was interpreted as a drop in morale. But it was pretty soon realised that such actions weren't the result of a breakdown in morale; it was a coping mechanism. People left because they wanted to survive.

What you do see in Britain, as in bombed cities across the world, is that big cities were incredibly resilient places and ways were found for resources to move around them. Even during the heaviest bombing of the Blitz, city life kept going. Society's ability to carry on is widespread; it's definitely not just a British phenomenon.

Q: What impact did the arrival of American GIs have on the home front?

A: The arrival of American GIs to Britain was gradual, with the first US troops arriving in Northern Ireland in January 1942, not long after the US had entered the war. More arrived over the course of 1942, but numbers then dropped quite sharply because lots of American troops left for North Africa at the end of that year. But from the autumn of 1943, the number of American servicemen in Britain increased significantly, particularly in the spring of 1944, and many became very attached to their local communities. Over the course of World War II, Britain actually hosted more than 1.5 million US troops.

Most of what Britons thought or knew about America was determined from the movies, and there was something of a generational divide in how Americans were perceived. But US troops were very resource rich, with access to American consumer goods that were unavailable to people in Britain. And they were also paid very well. So it's not surprising that American servicemen appealed to many British women. But at the same time, there were a whole set of anti-American prejudices that often saw social exclusion and condemnation experienced by women who were seen to be fraternising with American GIs.

Q: How did Britons react to the presence of African-American servicemen?

A: At this time, the US army was still segregated, and the 150,000 or so black GIs stationed in Britain were mainly employed in construction and logistics work. So, for a nation with a relatively small population of black Britons

MAIN: **Conscription makes newspaper headlines in April 1939. By the end of that year, more than 1.5m men had been conscripted into Britain's armed forces**

RIGHT: **Hitler greets British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain at Munich, 1938**

Life carried on even amidst the Blitz – these bombed out householders and their helpers pause their salvage efforts for a morale-boosting sing-song

GETTY IMAGES X9

US soldiers – always popular thanks to their access to luxury goods – sit with women of the Auxiliary Fire Service in London, c1942

Belfast a year after it was battered by German bombs, the Blitz damage clear to see

Clydeside shipyard workers were protected from conscription by virtue of their trade

"So-called 'coloured bars', already informally operating in Britain, became much more strictly operated"

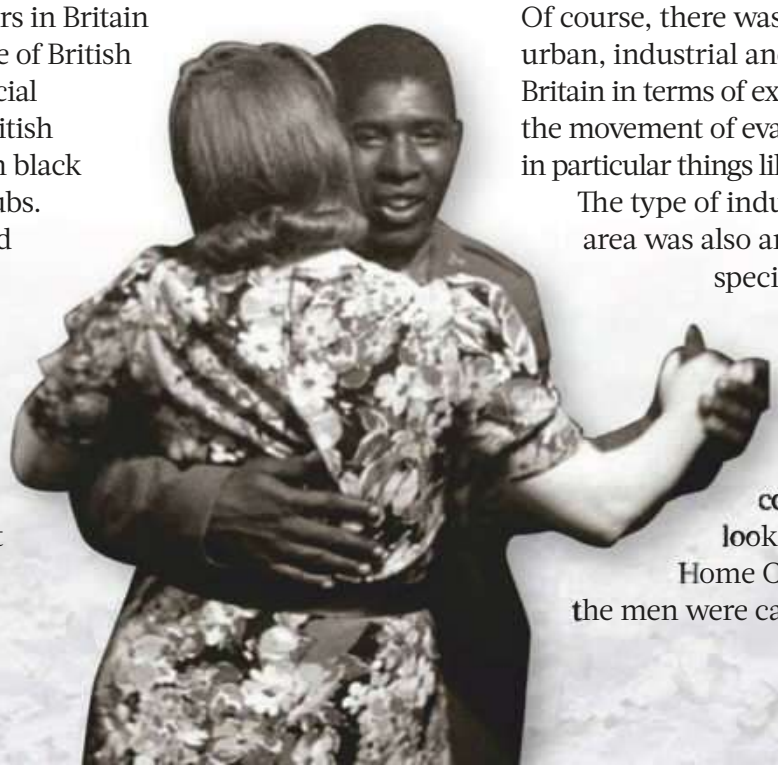
before World War II, there was probably somewhere between a ten- and 20-fold increase in the number of black people in Britain in the space of just a couple of years. And that created all sorts of racial tensions.

Although pre-war Britain was not necessarily a peaceful place, Britons weren't used to witnessing random attacks on people in the streets. So, seeing the violent racism that white soldiers from the American South often directed towards their black comrades was a huge shock, and there was widespread popular outrage.

But at the same time, there was also a whole set of very well-entrenched British racial prejudices and fears of miscegenation, which cut through just as fiercely. And these prejudices ran at all levels – from fears in the war office that the presence of black soldiers in Britain would be bad for the morale of British service personnel, to the racial attitudes shown towards British women who socialised with black soldiers in dance halls or pubs.

On a local level, so-called 'coloured bars', which were already informally operating in Britain, became much more strictly operated. There's even a set of cases in the West Country where pitched battles were fought between white and black service personnel.

Despite the racial prejudices of the time, many British women did socialise with African-American GIs



Q: How did experiences differ between England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland during this period?

A: In Scotland, England and Wales, I think the key variables were more about each country's relationship to the war effort than experiences as individual nations. Locations with big ports, such as Glasgow, Clydebank, Liverpool and London, for example, would have had a fair amount in common in terms of what it was to be a wartime port, of German bombing and of large numbers of people moving through them. And industrial cities in all three countries would also have had a degree of commonality in terms of being targets for German attack. Of course, there was a gap between all urban, industrial and rural areas across Britain in terms of experiences of violence, the movement of evacuees, and resources, in particular things like access to fresh food.

The type of industry in any given area was also an important variable, specifically a town or city's significance to the war effort and how protected its population of male workers were from conscription. If you look at some areas of the Home Counties, nearly all the men were called up in one way or another. But in the Clydeside area of Scotland, almost every man who wanted to be was in a trade that was protected from conscription, such as shipbuilding or munitions.

Northern Ireland's experience of World War II is distinct for a number of reasons, not least because conscription was never introduced there. But it was certainly not safe from bombing. Belfast in particular was very seriously bombed in April and May 1941 and suffered high casualties. And because the preparations to protect the local population against aerial attacks were not as advanced as elsewhere in the UK, it suffered very badly.

Q: What were attitudes like towards anyone who refused to fight?

A: I think it varied. The system for dealing with those who didn't want to be conscripted was much more developed, and in some ways more humane, than that which had been seen during World War I. It was relatively easy for men or women to claim conscientious objection, and, just as in World War I, those who claimed exemption on the grounds of faith were better treated than those who claimed exemption for political reasons. It also depended where in Britain you lived the tribunals that decided on exemption didn't operate in the same way across the UK, and that was partly down to who was standing in front of them.

Areas with a strong tradition of nonconformity, for example, were likely to see more cases of religious objection, and were more likely to take them seriously. Similarly, how conscientious objectors, or men not in uniform, were treated also depended hugely on where ▶

THE COST OF WAR

The realities of life on the home front can be counted in bombs, evacuees, vegetables and more

1.5 MILLION

The number of men who had enrolled in the Home Guard by July 1940

593

Tons of bombs dropped on Hull in three raids during the heaviest raids of the Blitz

2.5 MILLION

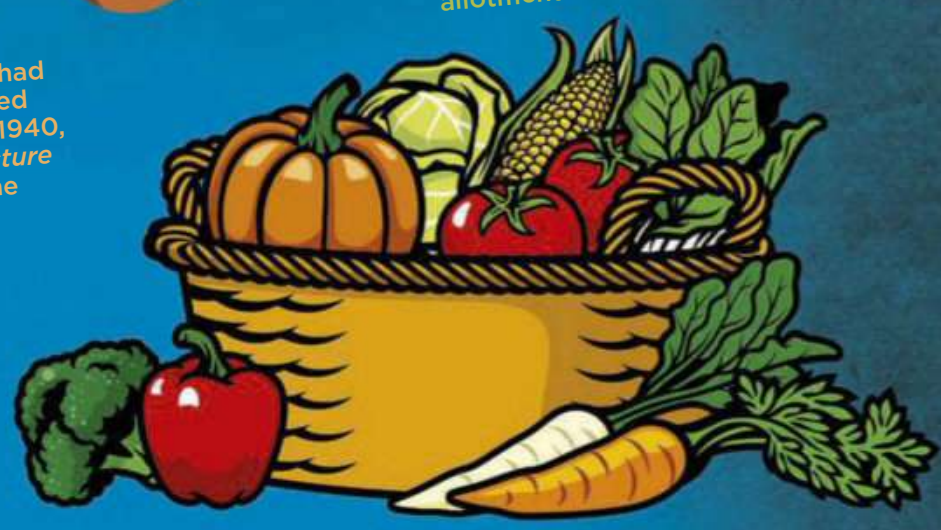
British and American service personnel who passed through the dockyards at Southampton between D-Day and VE Day

629

Professional footballers who had joined the armed services by April 1940, according to *Picture Post* magazine

1 MILLION

Tons of vegetables grown in allotments in 1943



79 The number of Tube stations used as air raid shelters by Londoners

1.5 MILLION

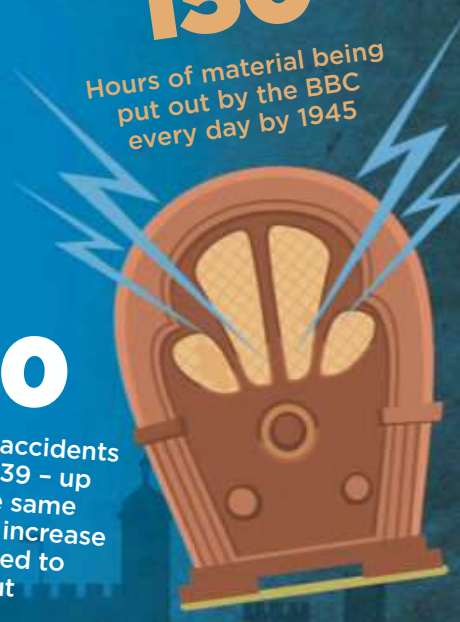
The number of people evacuated between 1-3 September 1939

40%

Percentage of female aircraft industrial workers by 1943

150

Hours of material being put out by the BBC every day by 1945



35,000-40,000

Workers at Britain's largest munitions factory, in Chorley, Lancashire

1,130

Deaths from road accidents in September 1939 – up from 544 in the same month in 1938, an increase largely attributed to the blackout

A couple offer counsel to those opposed to conscription outside the Labour Exchange in Cardiff – where youthful militiamen would have gone to sign up

◀ you lived, because not all cities looked the same in terms of population and employment. There is no evidence that Clydeside shipbuilders or Welsh coal miners felt any less manly or important because they weren't in uniform, for example. But experiences might have been different in cities where most men had joined up and you were the only one not in uniform. There would have been conflicting attitudes, so it's hard to tell.

The other thing that you see over the course of the war is that the percentage of men reaching call up age who claim conscientious objection goes down. There was a big call up of men in 1939, and particularly in 1940, and many of those conscripted were older men who had learnt their politics in the 1920s and 1930s. Younger men coming of age, who had grown up with World War II, were less likely to claim conscientious objection, probably because they'd not lived through the great surge of support for pacifism that had taken place in the early 1930s.

Q: What did Britain have in terms of PoW camps and how did people feel about them?

A: For much of the war, there were no prisoner of war camps in Britain during the early phase of the war there were just two such camps, in Cumbria and Lancashire. Most Axis servicemen captured in the early years of the war were taken prisoner in North Africa and should really have been kept there until they could be repatriated. In fact, both before and after Italy's final surrender, in May 1945, Italian prisoners of war were brought to the UK and used for labour. And in some cases, the work they carried out breached the Geneva Convention, such as building additional defences around Scapa Flow.

In general, Italian prisoners were seen as less threatening than Germans. There wasn't really a large number of German prisoners in the UK until after the summer of 1944. Their arrival coincided with a lot of anti German anger in Britain Germany was refusing to surrender, despite the war being lost, and the rate of death of British soldiers was rising.

It's interesting to note how long those German prisoners stayed in the UK, though. They were not immediately repatriated after the war's end, and many stayed on until at least 1947. They were actually a really important part of the British economy in the period immediately after the war.

In fact, the immediate post war period was one of amazing intermingling, really. There were British men in uniform in Germany garrisoning, helping to enforce law and order and feeding the German population. Bread rationing was actually introduced in the UK after the war had ended because of the amount of grain and other food support Britain was having to supply to Germany, including for those Germans who had fled from the Russian occupation of Eastern Germany.

There were also lots of German prisoners of war in the UK performing all sorts of work, particularly agricultural labour, but also cleaning up the debris of war. There were even concerns raised by the unions that prisoner of war labour was being used to undercut British workers' wages, added to the fact that PoWs were fed to the same standard as British service personnel, which was actually better than the British civilian population at that time.

Q: How anti-Semitic was Britain at this time and did this change following the discovery, and liberation, of the Nazi concentration camps?

A: I think Britain was an anti Semitic place before and during the war you can see this in the nationwide anti Semitic riots that followed the murders of two British servicemen in Palestine, in 1947.

The idea of the war being a struggle to save Europe's Jews wasn't really there at all and there was very little sympathy when news of the camps did arrive, perhaps, in part, because it had been the Soviets and not the British who had discovered them. The lack of attention paid to the camps can also be attributed to the fact that the British media and government had focused more on the persecution of occupied Europe than on the persecution of the Jews. This was partly due to a liberal fear that discussing the anti Semitic underpinnings of Nazism could be seen as giving legitimacy to it, but it was also about trying to create a common European experience.

"The idea of the war being a struggle to save Europe's Jews wasn't really there"

A German prisoner of war hangs out his washing at Camp 186 in Colchester; his compatriots can be seen playing football in the background

GETTY IMAGES X15

10 TIPS FOR SURVIVING ON THE HOME FRONT

With food on ration, resources in high demand and the minutiae of everyday life under threat, what did Britons do to stay healthy and sane?

WORDS: MEGAN WESTLEY

MAIN: **Members of the Women's Voluntary Service collect salvaged kitchen scraps in East Barnet, Hertfordshire**

INSET: **As this poster reminded Britons, waste food made welcome pig feed**

1 WASTE NOT

Waste was criminal during World War II – sometimes literally. In 1942, it became illegal to throw away or burn paper (the No 48 Paper Control Order on 4 September 1942 brought paper supply under the control of the Ministry of Production). With national supplies running low, all waste was frowned upon. Make Do and Mend invaded Britain, with guides showing how to prolong the life of clothing and household linen.

Ships importing food were often attacked, and men died to supply the kitchen table – throwing away food, therefore, was seen as an insult. Instead, leftovers were re-used and scraps kept for pig food.

TOP TIP **Keep on the right side of Churchill by reducing the amount you buy, reusing what you can, and recycling what is no longer needed.**

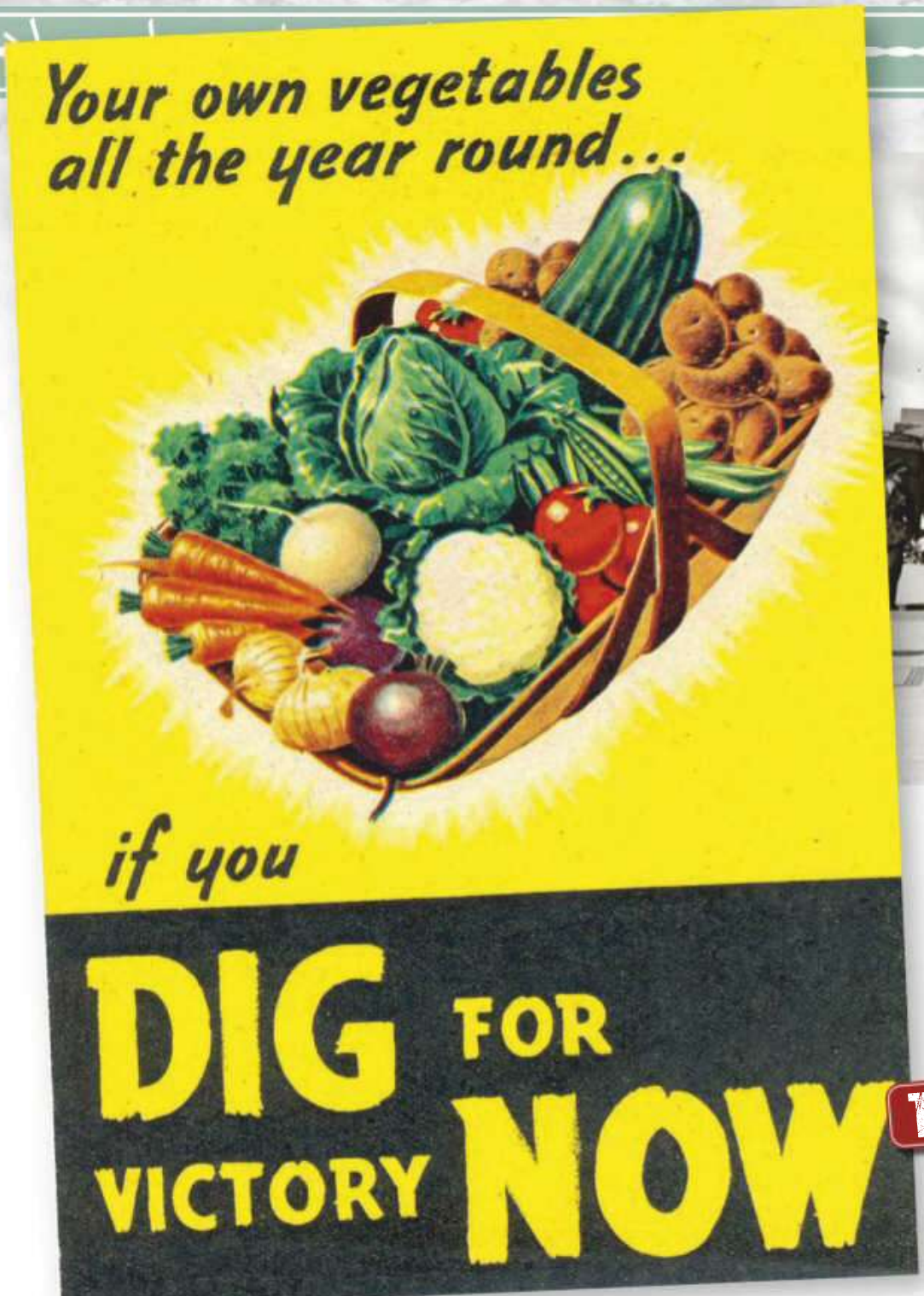
2 HAVE A FOOD PLAN

Food rationing is one of the best-known aspects of the home front. Running from 1940 to 1954, rationing controlled available food and ensured that everybody – regardless of income – had their fair share. By the end of the war rationing had restricted the sale of sugar, cooking fats, meat, tea, milk, tinned and dried fruits, eggs, jams, sweets and cheese.

TOP TIP **To make the most of rations and prevent supplies from running out mid-week, it's wise to plan meals in advance. Fail to do so, and you'll find yourself eating nothing but wartime champ (cabbage, potato and carrots) for days.**

A shopkeeper proudly announces the availability of his stock. Rationed goods could be purchased with government-issued ration books (*inset*)

GETTY IMAGES X8, ALAMY X2



Flowers gave way to fruit – tomatoes, in this case, planted in aid of the Dig for Victory campaign

3 DIG FOR VICTORY

The Dig for Victory campaign, which encouraged householders to grow their own food, was launched in October 1939. Parks, gardens and even the moat of the Tower of London were turned over to vegetables. Gardens were seen as household 'munitions factories', supplying the nation in its hour of need.

TOP TIP

Use as much of your garden as possible, although a reasonable crop of well-chosen produce can be achieved in limited space by planting in borders and pots. Potatoes, carrots, onions and kale are all staples of the Victory Garden. Fruit trees, especially apples, are also prized.

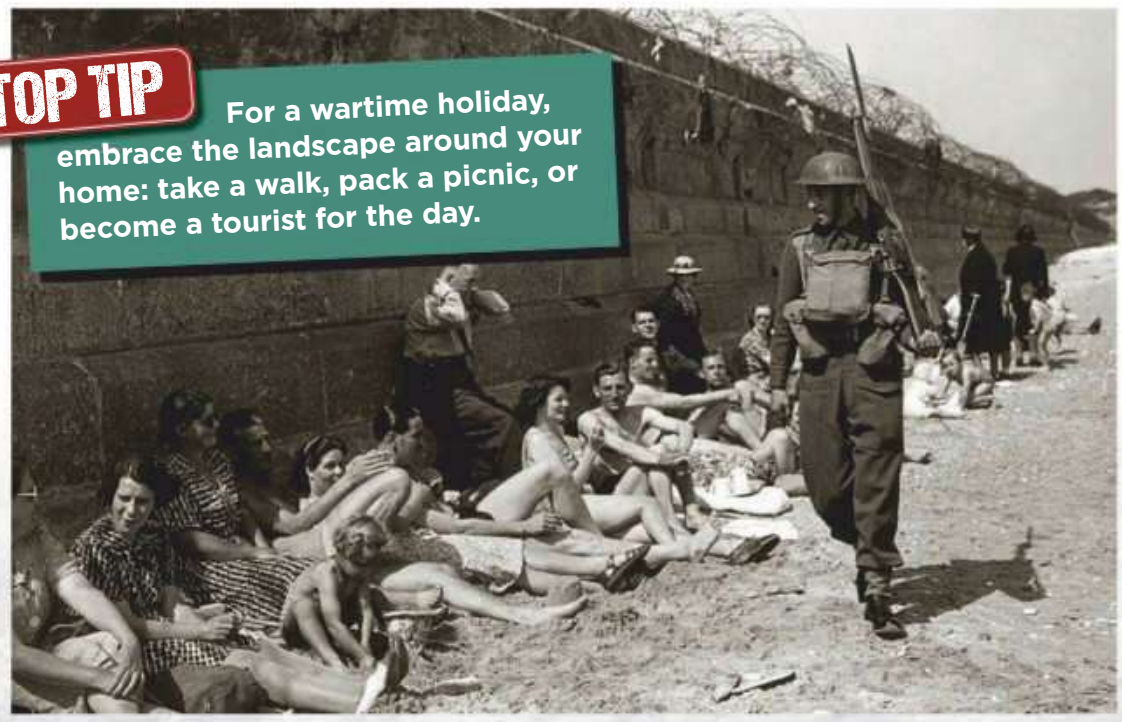
4 HOLIDAY AT HOME

If you visited a train station during World War II you'd most likely be confronted with the question: "Is your journey really necessary?" With overseas travel off the cards, and fuel in short supply, people were encouraged to make the most of what their local area had to offer.

During summer, the Holidays at Home scheme came into its own, inspiring events and outdoor entertainment. London's parks hosted weekend concerts and fairs, and donkeys were brought to Leeds.

TOP TIP

For a wartime holiday, embrace the landscape around your home: take a walk, pack a picnic, or become a tourist for the day.


Not even barbed wire and sentries couldn't stop these bored Brits from seeking out the sun

A wartime cookery demonstration takes place at a London store as part of a Free Food Advice Service, 1944

5 LEARN TO COOK

Today, there is an idea that the 1940s housewife was a domestic goddess. Actually, at the start of the war, many women didn't really know how to cook. This presented a problem: with the introduction of rationing, creative cookery was essential.

The Ministry of Food's Kitchen Front campaign was launched in April 1940, incorporating cookery demonstrations and radio hints. Advice ranged from nutrition and recipes, to the best ways to keep glass splinters out of food during an air raid.

TOP TIP

Prepare meals from scratch and be more inventive with what is available. This will lead to healthier diets and far less food waste. Mock crab, anyone?

Crowds queue outside an Odeon Cinema to see the wartime film *Journey Together*

6 ENJOY YOUR LEISURE TIME

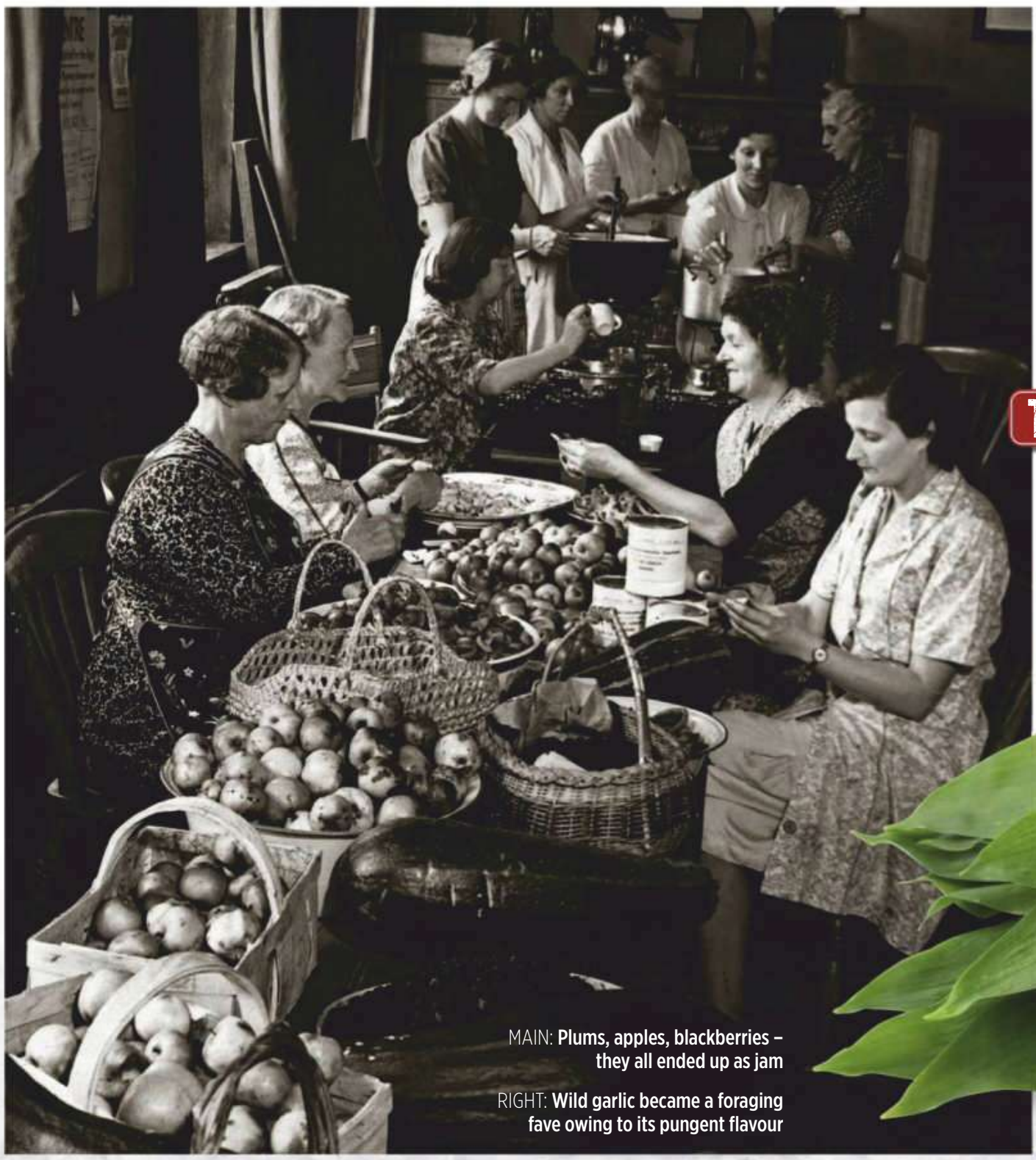
Though television existed in 1939 it was suspended at the outbreak of war, along with local radio programming. Instead, one national Home Service radio station was established, becoming a lifeline for those on the home front by providing news, household hints, and entertainment. Going to the cinema was another popular pastime, and between 25 and 30 million cinema tickets were sold every week in Britain during the war. Lunchtime concerts also provided a welcome break for civilian workers.

7 STAY OUT OF THE SUPERMARKET

Today's world of supermarkets, offering many choices under one roof, simply didn't exist in the 1940s. Instead, people traipsed from grocer to butcher, baker, and candlestick maker in search of the best produce.

TOP TIP

Visiting local farmers' markets can save both time and money. They are well stocked and often have a good range of stalls selling basic staples such as vegetables, bread, milk and fish. An advantage is that buying direct from the producer can be much cheaper, and the food fresher and less well travelled.



MAIN: **Plums, apples, blackberries – they all ended up as jam**

RIGHT: **Wild garlic became a foraging fave owing to its pungent flavour**

8 GET IT FOR FREE

Every year, Mother Nature puts on a wonderful show of edible goods. With so much food rationed or unavailable, foraging was a practical way of supplementing the diet.

The Ministry of Food certainly thought so, publishing Hedgerow Harvest guides to help. A popular recipe was for vitamin C-rich rosehip syrup, made when oranges were scarce.

TOP TIP

Blackberries, elderberries, wild garlic and stinging nettles are all easy picks. Fruits can be made into jam to last through the winter; wild garlic provides flavour in the absence of onions and garlic, and stinging nettles are a good alternative to spinach.

GETTY IMAGES X9, ALAMY X1

It was business as usual for stall holders, even in the rubble of the Blitz

9 BUY WISELY

Items were bought and kept, rather than thrown away. One good reason for this is that they were so hard to come by. Shortages in materials led to the sale of utility clothing in 1941 and utility furniture in 1943, all marked with a 'CC41' logo. Utility items were simple and functional, made to meet strict criteria dictating how much material or timber could be used in their manufacture.

Today's world of cheap, disposable imports goes against the wartime grain. When austerity ended, however, the novelty of new items becoming available sparked the beginning of modern consumer culture.

MAIN: **A catalogue of wartime utility furniture showing a bedroom set from c1947**

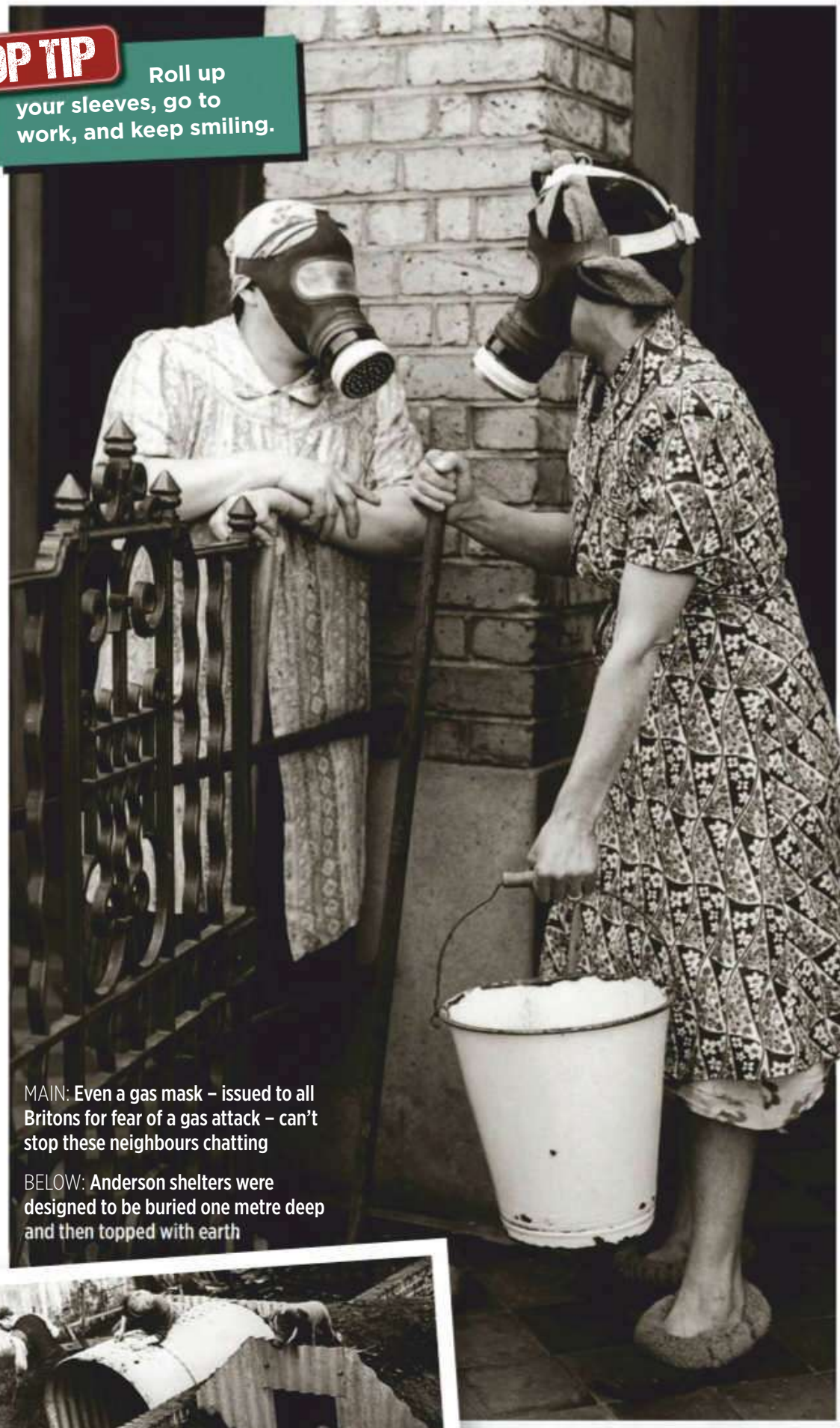
BELOW: **A woman browses a selection of utility suits**

10 LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

With a war to fight on the global stage, Britons were urged to beat Hitler by banding together. Domestic conflicts were dissuaded, and instead neighbours swapped vegetables and helped install Anderson air raid shelters – prefabricated from corrugated iron and then buried in gardens.

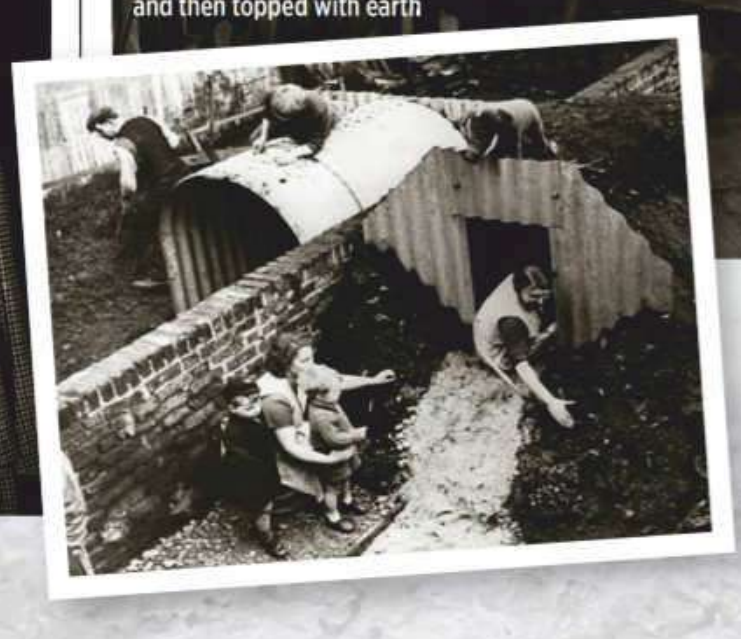
Many civilians volunteered for work that was hard, dangerous, or far away from home. The Moral Re-Armament campaign, epitomised in Daphne du Maurier's 1942 patriotic book *Come Wind, Come Weather*, promoted selflessness and unity in a crisis.

TOP TIP Roll up your sleeves, go to work, and keep smiling.



MAIN: **Even a gas mask – issued to all Britons for fear of a gas attack – can't stop these neighbours chatting**

BELOW: **Anderson shelters were designed to be buried one metre deep and then topped with earth**



GET HOOKED

READ

Megan Westley is the author of *Living on the Home Front* (Amberley Publishing, 2013)

A group of Land Girls demonstrate how to use a bailing machine

Members of the ATS work in the gun pit of an anti-aircraft battery

A Land Girl shows off the uniform to prospective new volunteers

WOMEN AT WAR

With many of Britain's men away fighting, women on the home front had to take charge

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

With millions of British men away fighting, it was once more up to women to take on the traditionally male jobs that would keep Britain and the war effort going.

During World War I, many women had volunteered to help with the war effort, but it was clear that this time around, a more concerted effort was needed. By early 1941, all women between the ages of 18 and 60 had to be registered with the government and could choose between a selection of jobs, although they would not be expected to bear arms. In December of the same year, the conscription of women was enforced, and they were given a choice of working in industry or joining one of the auxiliary services. Initially just single women aged 20–30 were conscripted, but by 1943, almost 90 per cent of British single women, and 80 per cent of married women, were contributing to the war effort in a essential ways.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Women could be found in shipyards, factories, shops and farms, but there were also specialist wartime occupations that could be taken on. The Land Army trained women in agricultural work, essential for the continuation of food production. Civil defence was another vital area of work: the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS), founded in 1938, helped organise the evacuation of millions of children, and provided assistance to those who had been affected by bombing raids, providing first aid and manning emergency shelters. The Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) was initially created for women to take on clerical duties and some driving. Though it wasn't too long before women were working close to the action, manning anti-aircraft guns – though officially they couldn't fire them. Nurses would be close to the fighting in field hospitals and some women joined the Special Operations Executive (SOE). These operatives were dropped behind enemy lines to work as saboteurs and radio operators, and to create a resistance army prepared for an Allied invasion of Europe.

Whilst it was deemed acceptable for single women to have a job, once a woman was married she was expected to stay at home and look after the house and children. But with so many husbands away, attitudes had to change: many women had to run the home, take care of

DID YOU KNOW?

BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Yvonne Cormeau was a wireless operator with the SOE. She was parachuted into France in 1943 and sent a record number of transmissions – 400 in 13 months. She narrowly evaded capture by the Germans by pretending to be a nurse.

GETTY IMAGES X6

children and be the breadwinner.

Historian Daniel Todman explains the fears society had at the time about the changing role of women: "For much of the 20th century, British society was not very good at coping with young women having financial independence and being outside the family home. Some women were very grateful for the opportunity to leave home, but others chose to work in the same factory or office as their brothers and fathers, because it meant they could stay at home under the watchful eye of the family.

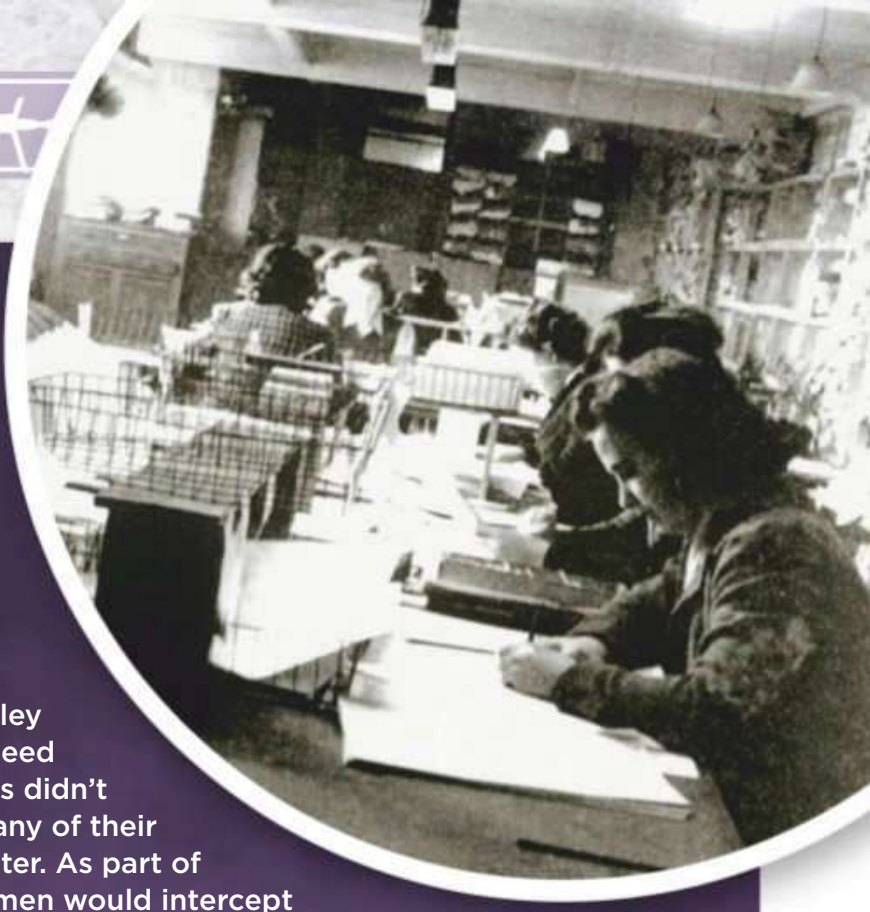
"Many feared that if young, single women left the family home, they would be seen as being not respectable, which might then make it harder to get married. What's more, they would potentially be meeting all sorts of men. The idea of uncontrolled, young, female sexuality and economic independence, was incredibly threatening to people at the time."

CRACKING THE CODE

Some women's wartime work literally saved lives

As well as working as nurses, in factories and on farms, there was a more secretive side to some women's wartime experiences. GCHQ, then known as the Government Code and Cypher School, employed many women as codebreakers in its headquarters at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire. Because of the need for secrecy, most of these women's families didn't know what they did during the war and many of their stories were not made public until much later. As part of the Allied codebreaking efforts, these women would intercept wireless transmissions, index information and – if they had certain skills like linguistics – undertake codebreaking.

Some of this work saved countless lives, as foreign attacks were prevented before they could begin. The Roll of Honour for those who worked at Bletchley shows that 63 per cent of workers were women, with many recruited through the Civil Service and Women's Services.

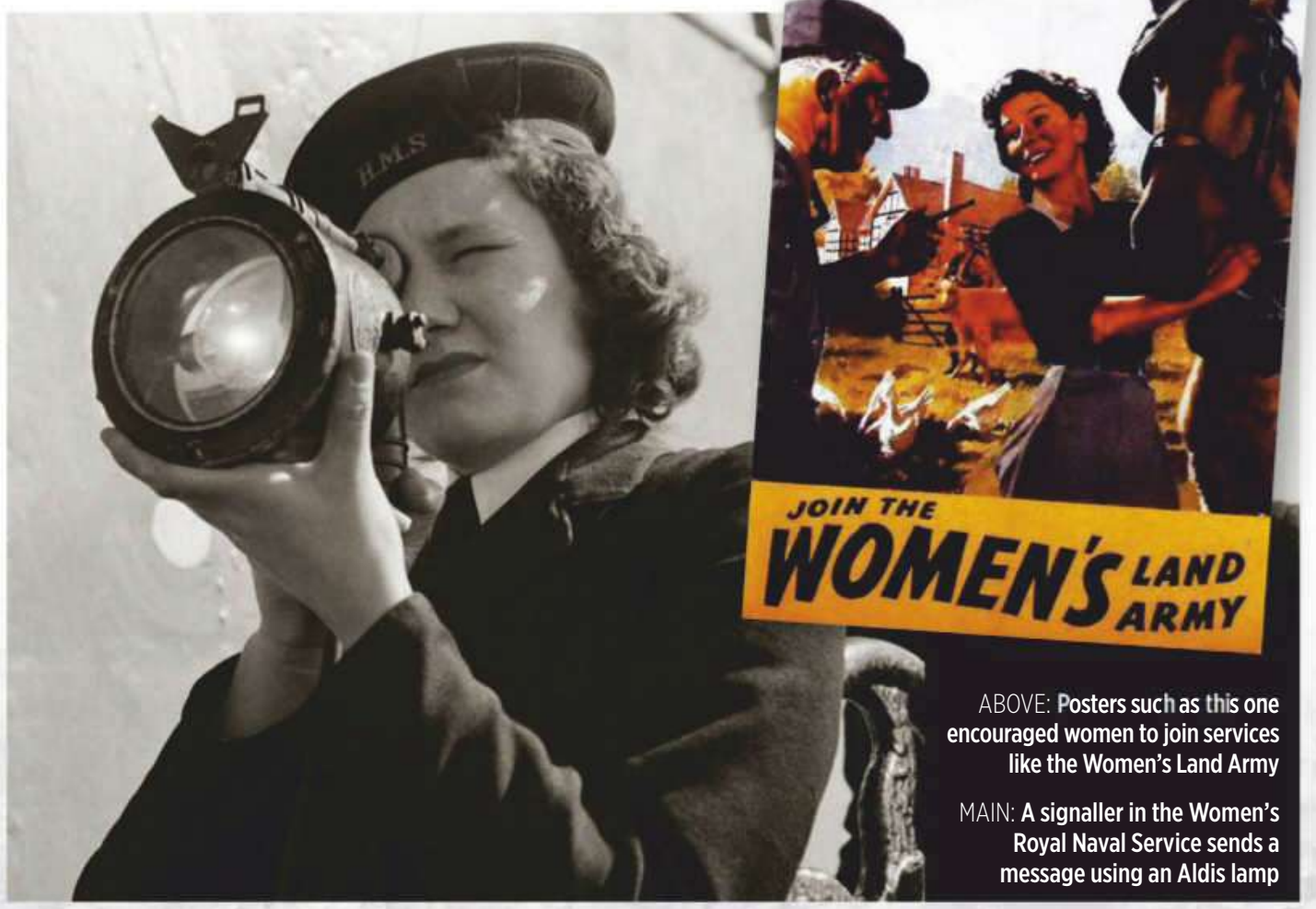


Workers at Bletchley helped break the German's 'unbreakable' Enigma device

SNOBBERY IN THE RANKS

Women helping with the war effort was also a minefield in terms of social hierarchy and class divides, as Todman explains: "The Women's Royal Naval Service (WRENS) and the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) were generally seen as being more acceptable, glamorous, higher-class versions of female service, while office work was generally deemed more respectable than working in a factory. Despite the back-breaking work they did on farms across Britain, keeping the nation fed, the Women's Land Army (whose members were popularly known as 'Land Girls') – working alongside men, usually away from home – often found themselves subjected taunts and insults that reflected general societal uneasiness about women gaining independence and living outside the respectability of the family."

"Land Girls – working alongside men – were often subjected to taunts and insults"



ABOVE: **Posters such as this one encouraged women to join services like the Women's Land Army**

MAIN: **A signaller in the Women's Royal Naval Service sends a message using an Aldis lamp**

RETURN TO THE STATUS QUO

Just as there had been in World War I, there were well-established trade union concerns that a lesser paid, less unionised female workforce could undercut traditional male roles, and soldiers would return to find themselves out of a job or facing a cut in pay.

"Part of the way wartime factory expansion worked was to break down skilled jobs into multiple processes, so that it could not be labelled 'equal work' to that of men – this was known as Dilution, and was one justification for paying women a smaller wage," says Todman.

Nevertheless, women were encouraged to help with the war although it was made very clear that the roles they were fulfilling were 'men's work' and that they would be expected to step aside once the war was over. Due to the food shortages that continued after the war, however, the Women's Land Army continued until 1950 and the WVS still runs today as the Royal Voluntary Service.

Despite their vital contributions, when the war ended and the men returned home, women, too, were encouraged to go back home (and back to the kitchen). By 1951, the number of women in the workforce had returned to almost pre-war levels and many sectors still had a ban on employing married women.

Continues on p40

WOMEN AT WORK

The war gave women the opportunity to take on jobs they might never have imagined doing

1. A 19-year-old postwoman, Joan Niven, crosses the river Findhorn near Inverness, Scotland, in 1941, in a box suspended by cables as part of a 17-mile round journey on foot **2.** London girls bring in the sugar beet harvest on a Lincolnshire farm in 1940 **3.** A woman war worker adjusts the tracks on a tank **4.** Members of the Women's Land Army shear sheep in Hyde Park, 1940 **5.** Lance Corporal Adina Williams of the ATS – a former nurse from British Guiana (now Guyana) – retreads a tyre, 1942. **6.** Women workers in a munitions factory, c1943 **7.** Women served as pilots in the Air Transport Auxiliary, ferrying planes to airfields **8.** Women of the Forestry Commission section of the WLA carry logs in Suffolk **9.** The Ford factory recruited women to work on their production lines **10.** Even welding wasn't off limits for women during the war ⊙

GETTY IMAGES X11

EVACUATION

As the clouds of war gathered over Britain, parents faced an agonising choice

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

After fathers, husbands and brothers had left Britain to fight, many families had to cope with further separations, when around three million people (mainly children) were evacuated from Britain's towns and cities to the countryside, away from the dangers of aerial attacks.

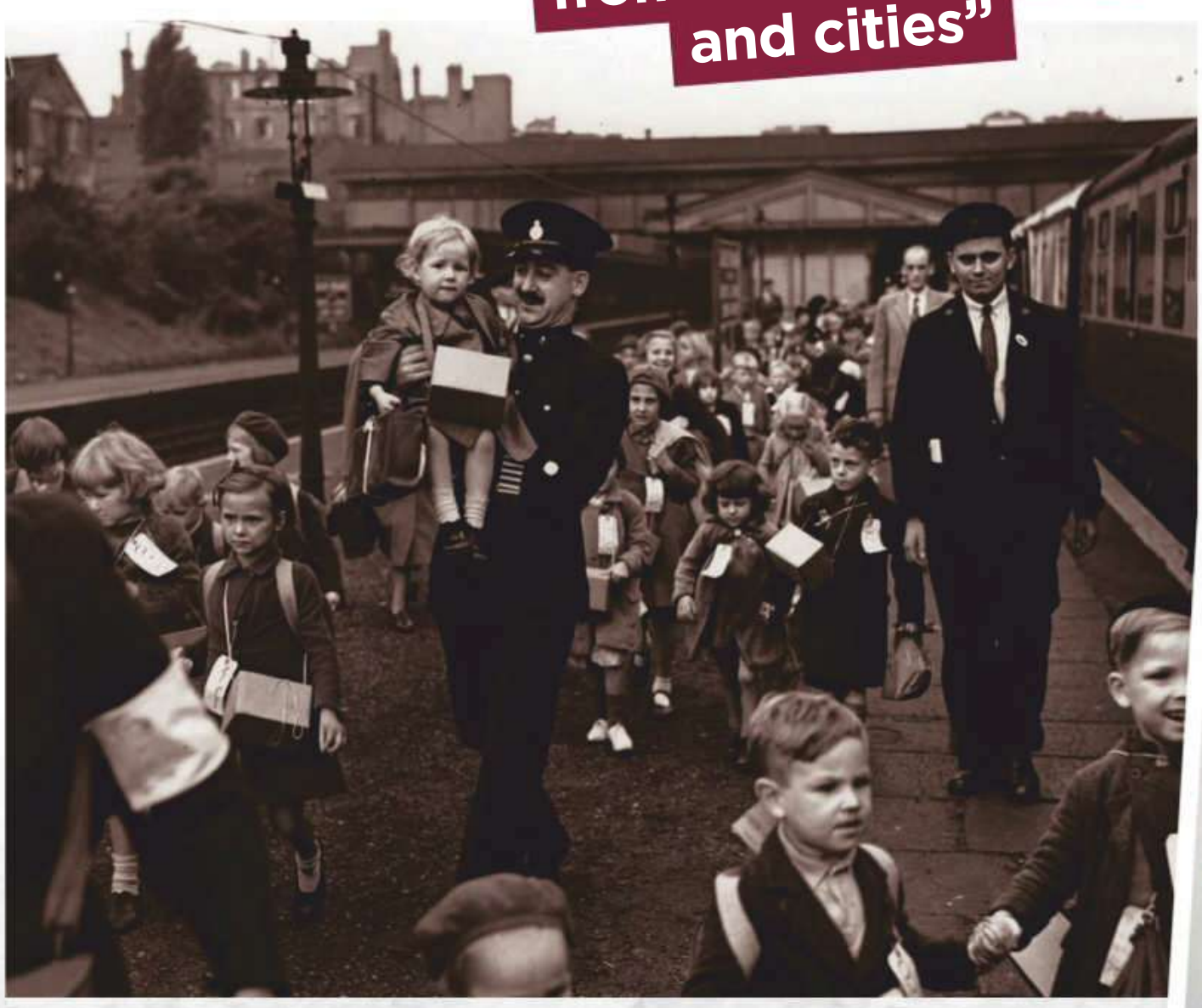
Some had family and friends they could stay with, but the majority of those evacuated went through the official government scheme, a monumental feat of organisation and logistics known as Operation Pied Piper. Evacuation was voluntary, but many – though certainly not all – families were persuaded to send their children to live with strangers, rather than risk them staying at home.

Even before war was officially declared, the British government was preparing to remove children, the vulnerable, pregnant women and those with young children out of the cities and towns. Areas of the country were divided into those at risk of aerial bombing or an invasion – such as major cities and industrial areas like London, Glasgow and Birmingham – and those areas deemed low risk such as Wales and Kent. A mass registration of those to be evacuated and available accommodation across the country was undertaken.

"Around three million people were evacuated from Britain's towns and cities"

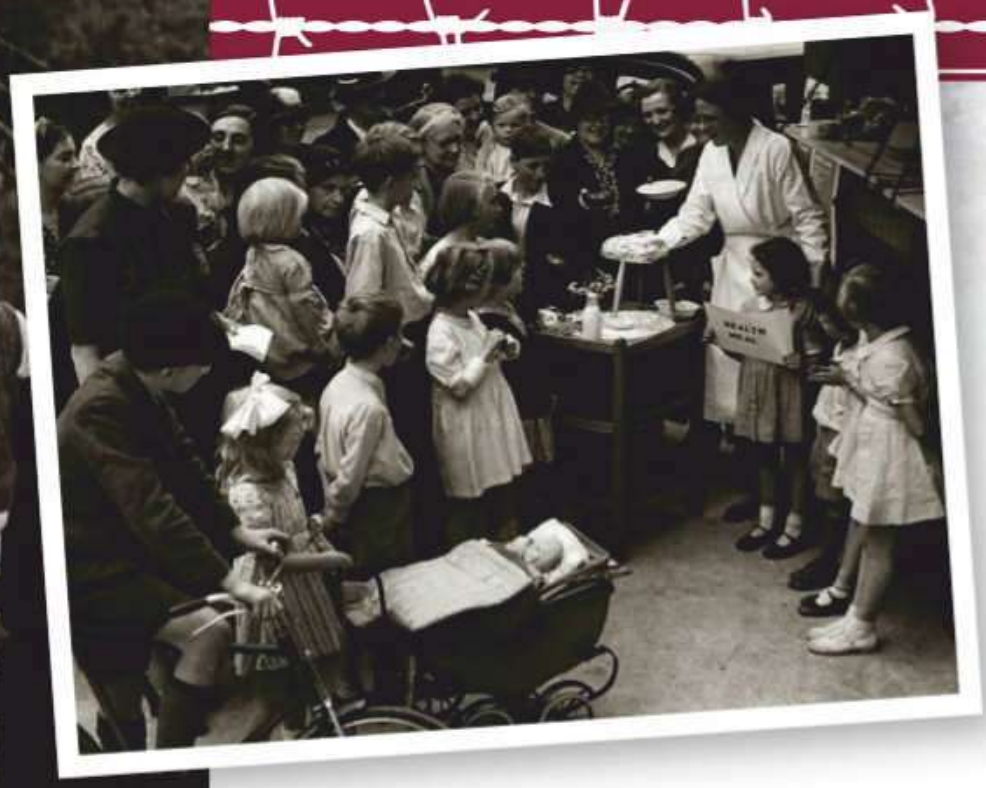
Two days before Britain formally declared war on Germany, the first wave of evacuations took place and children assembled in their schools ready to go. Over the next three days, 1.5 million people were transported to safe locations. But by January 1940, in the absence of the anticipated aerial attacks, many parents brought their children back home, prompting the government to produce posters urging parents to leave their children in the relative safety of the countryside.

After the German invasion of France in the spring and summer of 1940 and the beginning of the Blitz that same year, further rounds of evacuations were staged. Again, these were voluntary, and many children remained in their family



ABOVE: **Railway staff help hundreds of children onto trains at Ealing Broadway station on 1 September 1939**
RIGHT: **The British government produced posters to encourage parents to send their children out of the cities**

GETTY IMAGES X8



ABOVE LEFT: **For many evacuated children, the countryside was an exciting new place for them to explore**

ABOVE RIGHT: **The Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) provided help in many forms during WWII – here they're seen giving a children a cookery lesson**

homes. Towards the end of the war, in the summer of 1944, cities and towns in the east and southeast of England saw another wave of evacuations. Government offices and civil servants, including those at the Admiralty and the Ministry of Food, were also evacuated to ensure that their vital war work could continue.

The mammoth task of getting millions of children to safety needed hundreds of volunteers. The children were put on a train from their local station, or sometimes a boat London alone had more than 1,500 assembly points. Members of the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) as well as teachers, railway staff and local officials looked after the evacuees while they waited to travel, clutching small suitcases and other treasured possessions.

Local authorities were responsible for most of the organising when it came to determining where the evacuees would live. 'Billets' for evacuees were determined on the accommodation available rather than on how suitable its occupants were to take care of children; if you were assigned an evacuee, it was compulsory for you to take them. This left some children arriving at hosts who were less than welcoming, and in some cases left them open to abuse.

Families who housed evacuated children were paid to do so, and historian Daniel Todman highlights the generosity of the families who opened their homes to those in need: "There's a positive story to tell here, which is, in a national crisis, strangers across Britain were willing to open their homes to, essentially, strangers, not knowing how how long it would be for."

Many evacuees had lived in urban areas all of their lives and some would never have ventured to the countryside, or seen the sea. Seeing where their food came from would have been a new experience for many children, and while some thrived in the fresh air and freedom, others found the unfamiliar surroundings and separation from their families difficult.As Todman explains, the popular scene in films and television of children being picked in village halls by their new guardians wasn't entirely fictional: "There could be an element of choice involved in where an evacuee was placed. A farmer, for example, might want to house older boys so that they could help on the farm, while a family with existing children might want an evacuee of the same sex."

The disparity between classes was also present in evacuation and some families chose not to send their children away as they were ashamed that they could not afford to clothe them properly or ▶

PACKING LIST

Parents were given a list of items they had to provide for their evacuee children, which included:

Children provided extra labour to farms – and though boys were preferred for such tasks, even girls were put to work

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Six evacuees share their memories of leaving home for new lives in the countryside

Name: Frank Clutterbuck
Age at evacuation: 7
Evacuated from:
Manchester to Shropshire

I was evacuated with my sisters (aged 10, 9 and 8) and ended up in Aston, a farming village in Shropshire. I was placed with the Yeomans at the village post office, while my sisters were sent to live on two farms. We stayed there for four years, until 1943.

Name: Dag Pike
Age at evacuation: 9
Evacuated from: South London to Cornwall

My brothers (ages 10, 7 and 6) and I were sent to the Cornish fishing village of Cadgwith, where we soon found out that no one wanted to take on four brothers. I was so homesick I cried myself to sleep on that first night.

Names: Pam and Ruth (née Hancock)
Age at evacuation: 7 and 9
Evacuated from: Battersea to Devon

We were sent to Devon, where we were chosen from a line-up by the Rector's widow. We ate our meals in the kitchen with the maid and not with the family, and had to walk a mile to and from school each day. But we had lovely picnics on Dartmoor and learned to swim in a pool fed by the river Teign. I remember Mum coming to visit and bringing us two very large dolls.

Name: Vera Speer
Age at evacuation: 5
Evacuated from: South London to Kent

My first evacuation was to Folkestone. We had no knowledge or notice that we'd be going and were led to buses while we were at school. We just had our uniforms, gas masks and a small suitcase for sweets.

Name: Betty Cooper (née Andrews)
Age at evacuation: 11
Evacuated from: London to Hertfordshire

I was evacuated twice – the second time with a friend to Birkhamsted, just 30 miles from home. It was awful. Our host would try to make us bathe in the dirty water that she had washed her own child's nappies in. Thankfully, I was able to go home at weekends and my mother eventually got us moved.

Name: Roy Fleming
Age at evacuation: 8
Evacuated from: Southeast London to South Wales

I wasn't evacuated until 1944 because my parents wanted us all to stay together. But when I was fired at by enemy aircraft on my way home from school, they changed their minds. Evacuation changed my life: I was one of nine children living in a two-bedroom house, so having my own bedroom on a rural chicken farm was such a luxury. The experience made me want more from life.

Evacuation memories compiled with the help of the British Evacuees Association: *evacuees.org.uk*

buy the items listed on the suggested evacuee packing list. What is also often less known is that many mothers accompanied very young children. And this, too, could create tension.

"Some middle class families, with space to take people in, might not have been happy to share their kitchen with a woman from the poorest part of the country", says Todman, "and working class families in the countryside were often reluctant to house people from the towns because they viewed them as being dirty, and not respectable. There were all these awful condemnations of working class women in particular.

"Equally, if you were a woman who was used to an urban lifestyle, you could suddenly find yourself somewhere where you don't know anybody and be incredibly lonely. It wasn't a lifestyle that was sustainable for most people for a very long time and that's why so many came home."

The end of the war brought relief to families who could now be reunited after so long but for those children who had spent the best part of six years separated from their families, it was a bittersweet homecoming. Those who had been very young when they had left home had only the faintest recollections of their pre war lives, while some children would return to find their family home destroyed, along with all their possessions. Some children returned with new accents and felt closer to their host families than to their biological ones.

The primary aim of the operation had been a success, though, and a generation of evacuees escaped the horrific bombings that Britain suffered during the war.

Though children were evacuated, that didn't mean they cut off from family – this mother is visiting her daughter on a day trip in 1939

GETTY IMAGES X3

THE MISSION TO FEED THE NATION

With war interrupting the normal flow of goods to Britain, the government was forced to introduce one of the most famous policies of life on the home front – rationing

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

In order to keep every soldier's stomach full and ensure those at home didn't go hungry during World War II, the British government introduced a system of rationing, overseen by the Ministry of Food.

The war was a major shock to Britain's international food economy. Unlike other countries, Britain never faced the threat of famine. But the types of foods available for people to eat changed – more tinned meat, dried egg, dried milk, tinned and dried fruit, flour, less fresh meat, fresh fruit and veg and wheat, for example. The government had to step in to make sure that what was available was properly and fairly shared.

Rationing was sold to the public as a patriotic duty and a way of playing a part in Britain's defence – the argument being that the armed forces needed to be fed properly, as did those on the home front doing essential work on farms, in factories and the like.

This small tray is what one week's worth of rations – sugar, tea, butter, bacon, lard and margarine, plus a lonely egg – looked like in 1942

Lord Woolton, Minister of Food – who would soon have a hearty pie named after him – serves young diners at a mobile field kitchen

"Expectant mothers and children were given priority when it came to essentials such as milk and eggs"

COSTS SPIRAL

The British government was also mindful of the decisions made in World War I, when rationing had been a preventive rather than reactionary measure. "War generates an inflationary spiral," explains historian Daniel Todman. "The government puts more money into the armaments industries and extracts resources from the consumer economy, because many more people are going to be employed by 1941 that hadn't been employed in 1938.

"So a lot more money is going around. And alot more money chasing fewer goods means that if you don't control those goods, they go up in price. If the goods go up in price, then wages will have to go up too. If wages go up, war gets very expensive."

Food rationing didn't come into force in Britain until January 1940, and initially only for sugar, butter, bacon and ham. But by July 1942, it had been extended to cheese, soap, meat, tea, chocolate and sweets, as well as margarine and canned and processed foods.

Every person within a household had a ration card issued to them, which was registered with local shops by law. The coupons inside were used, with money, to purchase food. Each shop was then given enough stock to feed the households who had registered with them.

A typical adult weekly ration in early 1942 included one egg, eight ounces of sugar, two ounces of tea and butter, one ounce of cheese and four ounces of bacon, lard and margarine –

GETTY IMAGES X4

LEFT: **With regular cuts of meat becoming rarer by the day, less familiar items began appearing on dinner tables – including horse**

MAIN: **Fish was never rationed, though it was limited by how much fishermen could bring in**

INSET RIGHT: **The 'midget car' was a wartime answer to petrol rationing, capable of doing 80 miles to the gallon**

"Vegetables and fruit were not rationed at any point, but this didn't mean they were easy to come by"

◀ although amounts varied throughout the war. Expectant mothers and children were given priority when it came to essentials such as milk and eggs.

In 1942, a points system was brought in where each household would be allocated a number of points to be spent on items such as dried fruit, tinned goods and cereals. Points were allocated based on demand and availability. Todman suggests that the points systems allowed people to feel there was more freedom within the rationing system.

"There was a whole network of complex controls going on to try to make sure that everybody had access to, not just to a nutritious diet, but to a degree of choice as well," he says. "The points system was a very clever innovation. It was one borrowed from Germany and it gave the illusion of choice; people still had some freedom to pick how they'd like to spend their points."

Shoppers faced long queues outside their local grocers and butchers often to discover that what they wanted had sold out. Housewives had to come up with inventive ways to make the most out of limited ingredients, make food last and make the same meal appeal again and again. People were encouraged to be frugal and although all meat wasn't rationed until March 1940, it depended on price rather than points cheaper cuts became more popular than ever before.

NO LEFTOVERS

Rationing created a generation of Britons who ensured no bit of food went to waste, and they learnt innovative ways of making the most out of a meal or cut of meat. More unusual foods began to make an appearance in shops, including horse and whale meat, the latter reportedly giving off an unpleasant odour while being cooked.

New recipes were concocted too – including the famous Lord Woolton Pie, named in honour of the Minister of Food. Woolton had advocated the need for food to still be nutritious under rationing, and the simple pastry pie which bore his name was filled with carrots, potatoes, parsnips and turnips, and was one of several recommended to the British public. Another innovation, potato peel pie, ensured that even scraps of potato skin were eaten.

Fresh vegetables and fresh fruit were not rationed at any point, but this didn't mean they were easy to come by as most had previously been imported from overseas. The 'Dig for Victory' campaign was launched, encouraging people to grow their own vegetables and prompting a rise in allotments across the country. Public parks were also used for growing

Public places were given over to vegetable growing – this allotment is in London's Hyde Park

GETTY IMAGES X8

People were encouraged to give up their aluminium pots and pans – the metal was vital to making aircraft parts

food and raising chickens and pigs was also encouraged. Agriculture changed across the country as well – swathes of grassland were ploughed up as the growing of wheat and potatoes doubled. Those who lived in the countryside were better off: they had greater access to goods such as eggs and milk, and could also hunt and poach wildlife.

The Ministry of Food did much to encourage innovation in cooking and ensure people made the most of their rations. Between March 1942 and November 1946, more than 200 short 'Food Flash' films, issued by the Ministry of Food, were shown to an estimated 20 million people across British cinemas. Content ranged from instructions on how to bone a herring, how to measure ingredients properly, cooking with dried eggs and tips to keep milk fresh.

Food was not the only commodity to be rationed: fuel was limited in 1939, as was soap in 1942. Certain household items that included rubber and metals were controlled too, so that raw materials could be diverted into military manufacturing. This meant secondhand sales became vital for securing some everyday objects, such as pots and pans. Clothing was also rationed, and could only be purchased with coupons. Many Brits became nifty with a needle following the Make Do and Mend campaign (*see page 45*), encouraging the public to repair worn garments.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Restaurants were initially immune from rationing, so if you were lucky enough to be able to afford to dine out, you could eat what you liked on top of your ration allowance. However, by 1942, restrictions had been levied on restaurants, too, limiting how much meat and how many courses could be served. This move saw the establishment of government-funded 'British Restaurants' – industrial-style 'canteens' run by volunteers, which provided affordable, but not necessarily appetising, off-ration food for workers and those who had lost their homes or had no access to a kitchen.

Shortages of food and fuel would continue for some time after the war, and it wasn't until 1954 that rationing ended, with meat being the last food to be de-rationed. In comparison, rationing in the US had mostly ended by 1945, with only sugar being subject to restrictions, until 1947.

A shopper uses her ration book to buy clothes in June 1941

THE BLACK (AND GREY) MARKET

There was only one place to go when you needed items rationing couldn't provide...

To get around rationing and get your hands on food without using coupons, you had resort to the black market, which manifested in many forms. Some shopkeepers kept items behind in a secret supply – being on friendly terms with your local butcher could work in your favour, with an extra offcut of meat here and there. Petty criminals would deal desired luxuries and hard-to-get-hold-of food using questionable means, as well as forging ration books and coupons. It was a profitable industry, and the maximum jail sentence of five years did little to deter black market dealers. By spring 1941, around 2,300 people had been prosecuted for fraud and dishonesty.

Historian Daniel Todman distinguishes between the criminals who made money from illegal trading and what he calls the 'grey market' – those who were technically breaking the law but not making a profit. Swapping coupons with a neighbour, for example, would have been seen as socially acceptable by some – it just life made a bit easier and benefitted both parties. Todman also notes that the black market never became serious enough to threaten Britain's economy. Compared to the black markets operating in other countries, such as France, during the war, Britain's was a pretty small-scale operation. The majority of the British public understood the need for rationing and followed the rules and as an island, the government could keep better control of what was entering the country.

Many found loopholes to cheat the system. The production of toiletries and cosmetics decreased in order to divert labour and materials to items vital to the war effort, and these items were strictly regulated. In 1943, following a ban on the production of nail varnish, a product called Laddastop entered shops. Made of solvent-based substances it was marketed as a method to stop laddering in silk stockings. Coincidentally, it was coloured pink and came in a small bottle with an applicator brush – perfect for creating pretty nails! Solvents sold in small bottles were eventually banned.

Loose clothing coupons weren't accepted: they had be presented in a ration book

MAKE DO AND MEND

Rationing affected clothing as well as food – but the British public soon came up with nifty ideas to stay stylish

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

When clothes rationing came into force in Britain in June 1941, it was something of a shock. With fabric prioritised for military uniforms and the output of many clothing factories redirected for the war effort, a 'Make Do and Mend' campaign was launched to encourage people to repair and upcycle their existing clothing.

Everyone was encouraged to learn basic sewing skills and many women became skilled seamstresses, reknitting jumpers and using old and unwanted garments to create brand new outfits.

Adults were initially given an allocation of 66 points for new clothing to last one year with new mothers and babies eligible for extra coupons, but this soon reduced.

Between 1 September 1945 and 30 April 1946, adults received just 24 coupons. With 11 coupons needed for a dress and eight required for a man's shirt or a pair of trousers, the allowance didn't stretch far.

Displays like this demonstrated how easily clothes could be transformed into new outfits

ABOVE: **'Make Do and Mend' was a way of helping the war effort**

MAIN: **Many women improved their sewing skills as they fashioned clothes out of anything they could find**

LEFT: **This wedding dress is one of many made from parachute silk**

GETTY IMAGES X5, IWM X1

FIT FOR A PRINCESS

In solidarity, the future Elizabeth II who married Prince Philip Mountbatten in 1947 used rationing coupons to purchase the material for her wedding dress. Hundreds of people across Britain sent the Princess their own coupons to help, but these were all returned as it would have been illegal to use them.

A 'Make Do and Mend' pamphlet was issued by the British Ministry of Information to help housewives learn how to be economical during the tough times and also offered tips on how families could stay stylish. Men's clothing could be transformed into women's and vice versa while patches could be used to cover up holes in well worn outfits. Among the new wartime styles were dresses made out of blankets and blackout curtains.

WASTE NOT

Towards the end of the war, 'escape maps' handed to aircrew were sold and used as an alternative to silk, with dressing gowns and even underwear made out of European maps.

The Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) set up clothing exchanges where parents could swap outgrown children's clothes. Some women even raided their husband's wardrobe if he were away fighting and trousers on women became a more common sight.

Clothes rationing didn't end until 1949, although the Utility scheme would continue for three more years. Once the restrictions were lifted, many were desperate to embrace new fashion ideas. French fashion designer Christian Dior unveiled his 'New Look' in 1947, featuring swathes of fabric. But the wartime trend of wearing less formal and simpler styles also continued. The department store also thrived thanks to developments in mass production seen during wartime.

A stylish Utility suit (right) is, measured up against its pricier counterpart

UTILITY CLOTHING

A government clothing range ensured quality during austerity

In 1942, in response to the shortage and rationing of clothing, the British government introduced a scheme to manufacture quality and affordable civilian clothing efficiently, while limiting the use of materials. Austerity measures were placed on the outfits – some of which were unpopular, such as a ban on men's trouser turn-ups and a reduction in the number of pockets allowed. Leading fashion designers, including Norman Hartnell, created stylish and attractive outfits that would appeal to consumers, while celebrities such as actress Deborah Kerr endorsed the new clothing range. After initial doubts, the Utility range proved very popular and was later extended to furniture.

CHRISTMAS ON THE HOME FRONT

As the bombs rained down on Britain, the season of goodwill still went on, albeit very differently

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

As fighting raged across Europe, families on the home front still tried to bring a sense of normality to the festive season, although some traditions had to be adapted to account for the threat of bombing raids, goods shortages, and the reality of spending the holidays apart from loved ones.

The familiar fare that would normally grace the dining table at Christmas was hard to come by. Some families saved up their rationing coupons so they could afford some extras, but, once rationing was in place, turkey was not on the menu. 'Mock' food became popular, with foods such as vegetables and sausagemeat replacing turkey and other festive treats; in the week before Christmas in 1940, the tea ration was doubled and the sugar allowance increased to 12 ounces.

Homemade or renovated gifts were a necessity for most – toys, if they could be found, were expensive and many families were facing financial hardship. In 1941, the use of paper for anything other than to wrap food and for deliveries was prohibited, so old newspaper was used as substitute wrapping paper. Greetings cards were printed on small, flimsy pieces of paper, and were often reused in the following years. But cards were an important way of keeping in touch with those away fighting, or with evacuated children. There was also the YMCA gift scheme, which allowed those serving overseas to choose gifts to send back to their families. American GIs stationed in Britain had the opportunity to spend the holiday season with a British family – in return they would often bring lavish gifts.

For those who had lost their homes and belongings in bombing raids, Christmas was a particularly difficult time. Communities would help each other and canteens provided shelter and food for people in need. After food and gifts, families gathered around the wireless to hear words of comfort and cheer from their monarch, George VI.

Air raid wardens spread some festive cheer by decorating a shelter, 1940

With new toys expensive and hard to come by, Father Christmas and his helpers had to get creative

These Liverpool school children are enjoying their Christmas party in an air raid shelter, 1941

Being in an air raid shelter didn't mean you couldn't celebrate

CHRISTMAS DURING THE BLITZ

The German bombing campaign of 1940 and 1941 put a dampener on Christmas

The Christmas of 1939 wasn't much different to previous years in terms of celebrations, although for most people, the absence of family members marked the traditional get-together. But the Christmas of 1940 was a different story. After 57 consecutive nights of bombing raids between September and November 1940, there was a small respite on Christmas and Boxing Day but, by 29 December, many families were rushing for the safety of air raid shelters once more. Rationing meant Christmas dinners looked, and tasted, very different, while the blackout put an end to festive lights on the streets. And as fuel rationing and travel restrictions began to bite, family celebrations were local affairs.

GETTY IMAGES X6

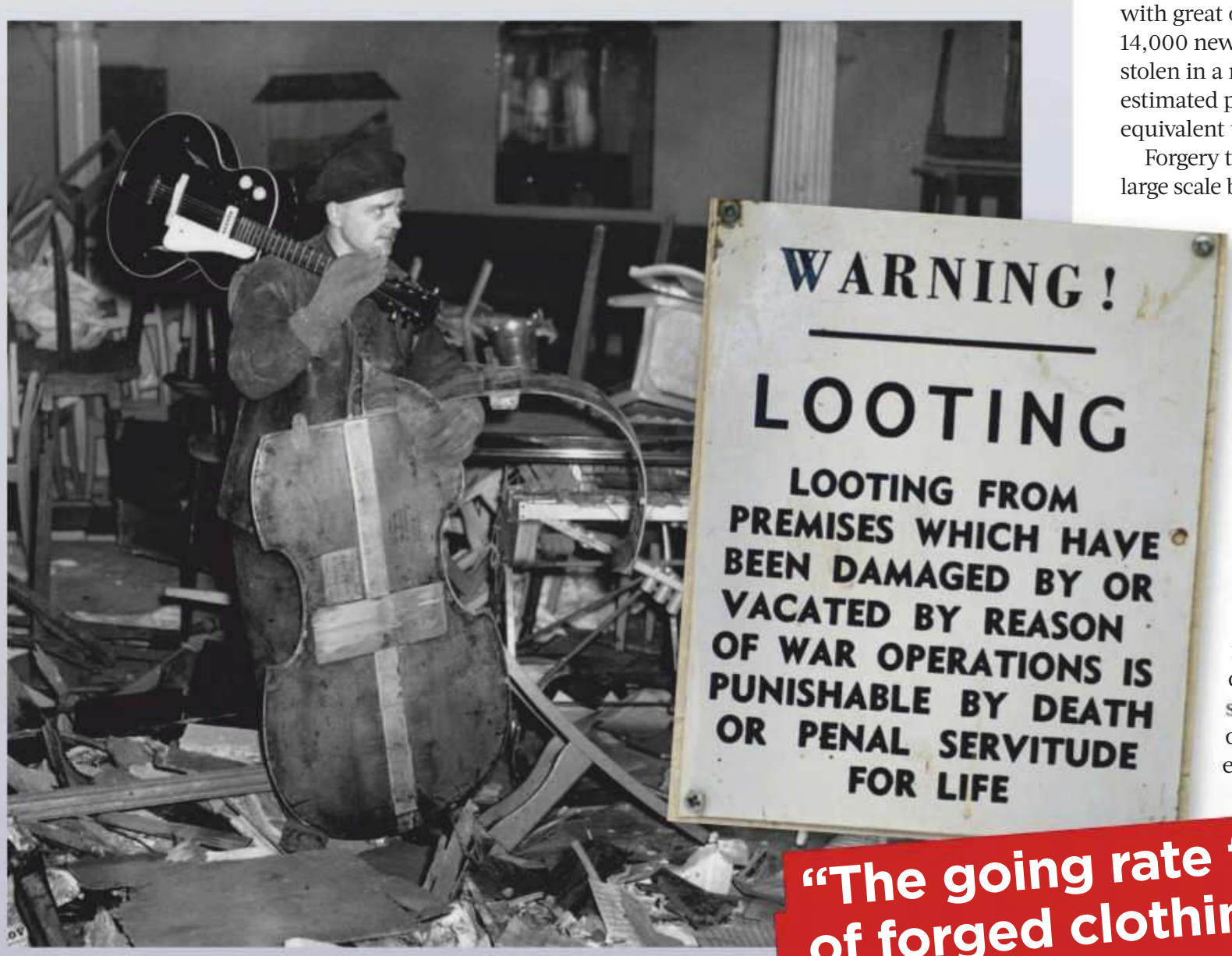
CRIME ON THE HOME FRONT

From blackouts to blitzed homes, WWII presented a host of opportunities for the criminally inclined. Here are ten examples of dodgy dealings and violent deeds that flourished on the home front

WORDS: MARK ELLIS

LOOTING WAS RIFE

On one day in November 1940, 20 of the 56 cases listed for hearing at the Old Bailey concerned looting offences. The total number of cases for the four months of the Blitz – to the end of December – was 4,584. When the Café de Paris restaurant and nightclub in Piccadilly suffered a direct hit by the Luftwaffe in 1941, rescuers had to battle their way through looters who were allegedly fighting to tear rings and other jewellery from the dead revellers. There were many cases in which looters weren't just criminals and members of the public: firemen, wardens and other members of the defence forces often joined in too.


WARNING!
LOOTING
LOOTING FROM PREMISES WHICH HAVE BEEN DAMAGED BY OR VACATED BY REASON OF WAR OPERATIONS IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH OR PENAL SERVITUDE FOR LIFE

A man saves a guitar from the wreckage of London's Café de Paris, in 1941. Looting carried harsh penalties (as this dire warning suggests, *inset*), but for some the lure or rich pickings in the rubble of bombed buildings proved irresistible

GETTY IMAGES X7 ALAMY X1

RATIONING LED TO THEFTS

Some of the most significant and lucrative black-market activities centred on the long list of staple products subject to rationing. Food, petrol and clothing rationing was administered through ration books and coupons, which provided forgers and thieves with great opportunities. In 1944, some 14,000 newly issued ration books were stolen in a raid: they were sold for an estimated profit of £70,000, roughly equivalent to £3 million today.

Forgery took place on a small and a large scale but was hard to pin down. A rare major prosecution took place in Manchester in 1943, when 19 men were accused of involvement in a wide-ranging racket of selling forged clothing coupons. A printing press in Salford supplied a host of wholesalers in the north and south of England with high quality forgeries. The going rate for a sheet of forged coupons on Oxford Street was £10 – around £400 in today's money. Rationing naturally gave rise to a great deal of corruption among shopkeepers, farmers and officials, and many culprits ended up in court.

"The going rate for a sheet of forged clothing coupons on Oxford Street was £10 – around £400 today"

RIGHT: **Beyond the black market, Bill Hill was a smuggler and ran protection rackets**

BELOW: **A Canadian airman offers expensive black market lighters for sale in central London**

RIGHT: **The public were encouraged to rely on their ration stamps to 'stamp out' the black market**

THE BLACK MARKET BOOMED

While there was always scope for individual entrepreneurialism, criminal gangs soon came to dominate the black market. In London, the main player was Billy Hill, who grew up in Seven Dials, which had been a major hub of London crime for centuries. He was quick to realise the potential of the war, not only the advantages conferred on the criminal classes by the blackout, rationing and the Blitz, but also the obvious benefits of police manpower being constrained due the loss of officers to the armed forces.

Hill duly took advantage and made a fortune, and was always grateful to the black market. He said of it in his memoirs: "It was the most fantastic side of civilian life in wartime. Make no mistake. It cost Britain millions of pounds. I didn't make use of the black market, I fed it."

Hill had many other strings to his bow. His gang pulled off a number of jewellery 'smash and grabs' early in the war, some staged spectacularly in London's West End. These crimes were easier to pull off with Blitz chaos all around combined with a weakened and heavily stretched police force.

Rationing did not end until 1954, so the black market thrived for a few more years after German capitulation in 1945.

PEOPLE ABUSED THE SYSTEM

The British government set up various wartime compensation schemes for the population and some people were quick to spot an opportunity for abuse. Cashing in on a scheme that provided for people who had been bombed out, one enterprising man in Wandsworth, London, claimed to have lost his home 19 times in three months, and received a substantial sum each time. He was jailed for three years.

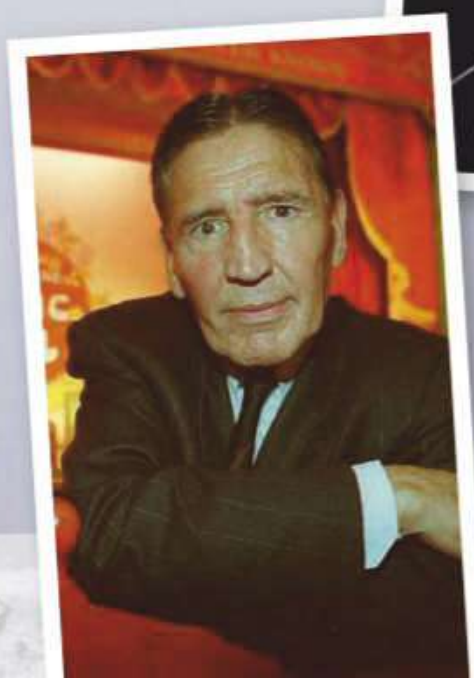
Other government initiatives, such as evacuation, were also open to fraudulent manipulation. Some country families were happy to have children billeted with them, but others weren't and some even esorted to bribery to evade the responsibility. Basil Seal, one of Evelyn Waugh's protagonists in his wartime novel *Put Out The Flags*, takes advantage of his sister's position as a billeting officer and makes a nice sum from this type of corrupt activity, illustrative of activity at the time.

CRIMINALS BECAME HEROES

Not all criminals concentrated exclusively on feathering their own nests: there were also some criminal 'heroes'. Some allowed their patriotic instincts to surface and supported the war effort. Perhaps the best known of these was the ace burglar and robber, Eddie Chapman, who was recruited by MI5 and became a British double agent.

Known as 'Agent Zigzag', he was spectacularly successful at duping the Germans, who famously valued him so highly that they awarded him the Iron Cross. Returning from overseas service in 1944, Chapman was pardoned for his previous crimes and awarded a substantial payment. He was quick to return to his criminal ways, but avoided jail and eventually retired in some comfort.

Some years ago, 'Mad' Frankie Fraser, a gangster who became something of a TV star in his final years, told a talk show host regretfully and seriously that he'd never been able to forgive the Germans for surrendering. Many old crooks echoed his sentiment: they had never had it so good!



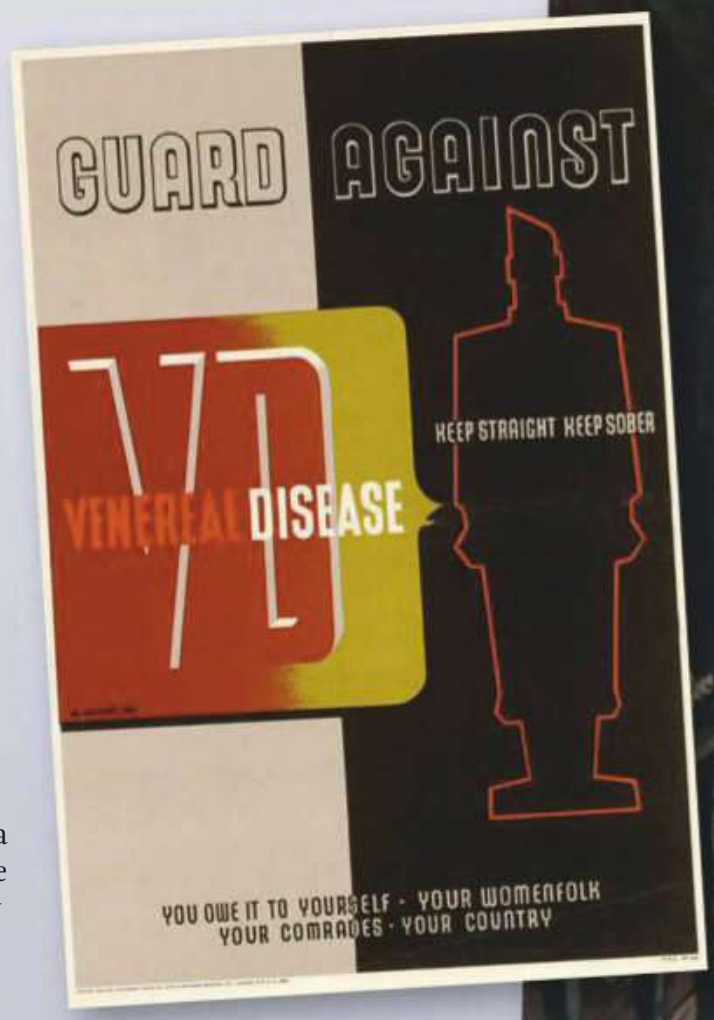
ABOVE: **A criminal as well as a double agent, Eddie Chapman's questionable approach to the law led to him being called 'Agent Zigzag'**

LEFT: **'Mad' Frankie Fraser was another gangster who cashed in on the chaos of war**

GANG ACTIVITY INCREASED

In London, there were Jewish, Maltese and Italian gangs as well as cockney outfits. The Maltese Messina gang controlled the London vice scene with an iron fist. Prostitution boomed in the war in line with the massive inflow of soldiers, sailors and airmen. By 1944, there were more than 1.5 million American GIs in Britain, while the British armed forces totalled three million, many of whom were based on the home front. Hordes of servicemen would pour into London and other British towns and cities on nightly furloughs looking for fun. The Messina ran a huge gang of girls, nicknamed the 'Piccadilly Commandos' to satisfy London demand. The incidence of sexually transmitted diseases naturally soared, as did business for back street abortionists.

BELOW & RIGHT: **Gangs were quick to take advantage of the increase in young men looking for nightly 'entertainment' – leading to a swell in venereal disease**



"Hordes of servicemen would pour into towns and cities on nightly furloughs looking for fun"

The year after the Kent strike, miners in the US state of Pennsylvania did the same – prompting a radio address from US president Franklin D Roosevelt urging them not to "gamble with victory"

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2

SOME WORKERS' RIGHTS BECAME ILLEGAL

The wartime criminalisation of previously legitimate activities was another factor boosting crime figures. Striking, for example, became illegal under defence regulations in order to ensure that wartime industrial output was maintained at the maximum.

Inevitably, this proved problematic. A 1942 miners' strike at a Kent colliery led to the imprisonment of the miners' leaders and the threatened imprisonment of the 1,000 man workforce if they didn't pay their fines. When nearly all of the miners refused to pay, the government baulked at jailing such a huge number of working men and prevented the court from applying its sanction. No other strikers were imprisoned thereafter during the war, although fines continued to be levied.

CONMEN TOOK ADVANTAGE

Corruption was not confined to rationing and the black market: there were many other wartime activities that offered scope for the unscrupulous. For example, the massive amount of civil defence work commissioned was ripe for fraudsters.

In west London, a dodgy contractor conspired for gain with the Hammersmith clerk of works to falsely certify air-raid shelters as sound when they had been shoddily built, fraudulently expensed and were unfit for purpose. People died who should have been safe from the bombs and manslaughter prosecutions followed.

Elsewhere, unscrupulous doctors profited from a popular scam of providing false military exemption certificates to shirkers. One London doctor was found guilty of charging a man £367.10s (around £14,700 today) for his certificate, while another, Dr William Sutton, would issue such exemptions for half a crown without even bothering to see the candidate. When he was finally arrested, Sutton was allegedly found with 700 forged certificates.

Cutting corners on air-raid shelters was a quick way to increase profits – but one that came with a devastating human cost

KILLERS HAD A FIELD DAY

With cities and towns plunged into darkness every night, killers had a field day. A young airman, Gordon Cummins, was nicknamed 'the Blackout Ripper' and roamed the bomb-ravaged streets of London in search of young women to murder and mutilate. He killed at least four women between 1941 and 1942 before he was caught, and became an early victim of the famous British hangman Albert Pierrepoint.

Other later victims of Pierrepoint who began their murderous activities during World War II included John Christie, of 10 Rillington Place fame, and John Haigh, the 'acid bath murderer'. The circumstances of the war assisted both men in their crimes. Despite a criminal record, manpower shortages helped Christie to become a part-time special police constable, and the associated veneer of respectability was very useful to him. Haigh found the war a convenient cover for explaining his first victim's disappearance; his claim that the man had run away to avoid conscription to the army successfully diverted suspicion.

ABOVE: **Rillington Place murderer John Christie hid the bodies of several of his victims in his home and garden**

LEFT: **'Blackout Ripper' Gordon Cummings killed at least four women**

CRIMES WENT INTERNATIONAL

Unusually, the writ of the wartime British courts did not extend to all crimes committed in the country. Crimes committed by American military personnel were exempt, as the US authorities insisted on trying such cases in their own courts, which were set up in several locations. The main one in London was near the US embassy in Grosvenor Square. This arrangement caused no real difficulty until some disturbing statistics became known. The record showed that many more black GIs were prosecuted than white ones and were given much stiffer sentences if convicted.

One case in particular drew public attention to this discrimination. Leroy Henry, a black GI, was convicted of rape, a capital offence for the Americans, on apparently flimsy evidence. He was sentenced to death by the presiding American colonel. The case led to deep public unease in the British press and elsewhere. Some 33,000 people from Bath, where the alleged rape took place, signed a petition calling for a reprieve. The common view was that Henry's race was the principal reason for the conviction. General Eisenhower, the commander of US forces, had to intervene; he threw out the verdict as unsafe and returned Henry to his unit.

GET HOOKED

READ

Mark Ellis' latest WWII crime-fiction novel, *A Death in Mayfair*, is published by Headline Accent (2019)

DID YOU KNOW?

BERLIN CALLING

On 25 August 1940, Britain bombed Berlin for the first time, leading to Adolf Hitler authorising an attack on London as revenge.

THE BLITZ

One of the most feared sounds on the home front was the wail of an air raid siren...

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

ABOVE: **Bomb damage in Liverpool following a raid in 1941**

MAIN: **An air raid 'spotter' watches for approaching Luftwaffe aircraft in London**

RIGHT: **Prime Minister Winston Churchill visited the ruins of Coventry Cathedral in September 1941**

GETTY IMAGES X9

"Though London suffered some of the worst bombing raids, other locations were targeted too"

Between September 1940 and May 1941, Britain endured eight months of near constant aerial bombings – a period known as the 'Blitz', from the German word *blitzkrieg* (lightning war). London alone saw 57 consecutive nights (and many days) of raids, which killed more than 15,000 people and made thousands more homeless. It quickly became apparent that this sustained bombing was going to be something the British people had to get used to.

The bombings of the London Blitz weren't the first on British soil during World War II – that dubious record was made in March 1940, when the first British civilian casualty was killed in the Orkney Islands when German bombers attacked the naval base at Scapa Flow. In July that year, Wick in Scotland suffered the first daytime bombing by the Luftwaffe and the docks in Swansea were also targeted throughout that summer.

On the first day of the Blitz – 7 September 1940, a day that became known as Black Saturday – nearly a thousand German aircraft launched a ferocious attack on London, killing more than 400 people. The city's most devastating bombing came on 10–11 May 1941, when 711 tonnes of explosives rained down on the city, leaving more than 1,400 civilians dead and many more injured and homeless.

Though London suffered some of the war's worst bombing raids, other locations suffered greatly. On 14 and 15 November 1940, Coventry suffered devastating bombing that left a third of the city's houses uninhabitable. A reasonably small city, everyone knew someone who had been injured or killed.

Most of Britain's major industrial cities were targeted between late 1940 and mid 1941. Bombings over two nights in Clydebank near Glasgow caused the destruction of many of its overcrowded tenement homes, while Belfast's docks were destroyed and more than 700 killed during a five-hour raid in April 1941.

Port cities such as Liverpool, Cardiff, Bristol and Portsmouth were high on the Luftwaffe's hitlist – Liverpool suffered the most damage outside of London, while on 10–11 January 1941, 140 tons of high explosive bombs and 40,000 incendiaries were dropped on the city of Portsmouth.

TAKING COVER

Thousands of people had been evacuated to the countryside, but for those left behind there were air raid shelters. Most famous of these was the Anderson air raid shelter, made of steel sheets and designed to be buried in the garden. Though they could withstand a 100lb bomb landing six feet away, they were cold, cramped and prone to leaks.

Shelters inside the home were also introduced. Known as Morrison shelters,

these were steel and mesh cages that doubled up as a dining table. For people who were away from home when an air raid took place – or for those who didn't have their own shelter – there were communal shelters, established in railway arches, tunnels and London Underground stations. Some who lived in areas subject to repeat bombings made these communal shelters their homes.

Just before the start of the war in September 1939, a blackout was introduced – during the hours of darkness, all street lighting was turned off, vehicle headlights could only show a minimal crack of light, and paint, blackout curtains and cardboard were used to stop light escaping from windows. The idea was that this would leave the Luftwaffe pilots with few points of reference, and mask towns and cities.

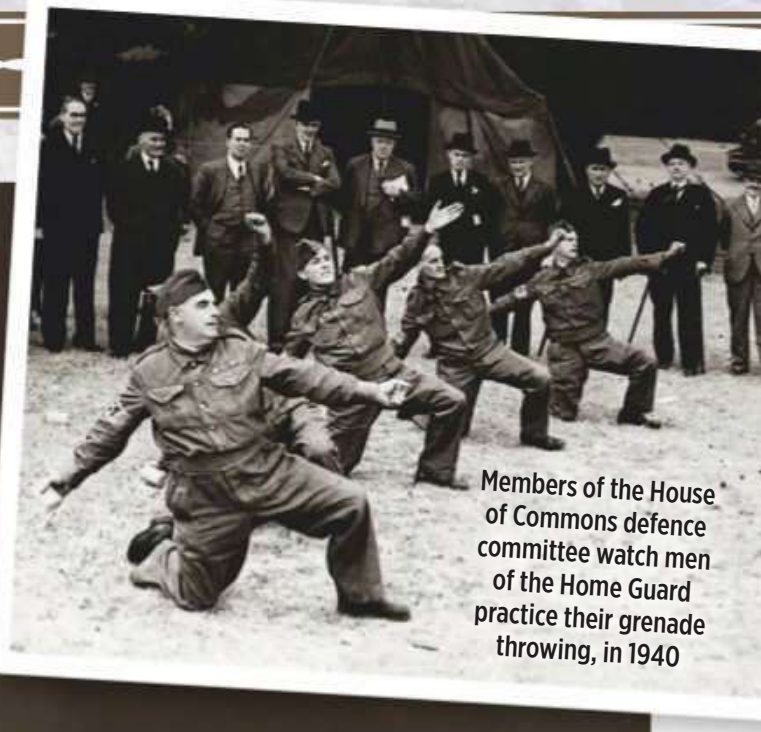
The Air Raid Wardens Service had been set up in 1937, as part of preparations for what seemed like imminent war. Some 200,000 volunteers were recruited to the service by 1938, many of whom were deployed as Air Raid Wardens. Duties included enforcing the blackout and advising on air raid precautions - during air raids, wardens were reassuring figures, responsible for reporting bomb damage, helping civilians to their nearest shelter and coordinating emergency services.

Gas masks, too, were an important part of war preparations. Anticipating a high risk of future gas attacks, gas masks were first issued in 1938, with more than 44 million distributed by the time war was declared in September 1939.

THE REAL DAD'S ARMY

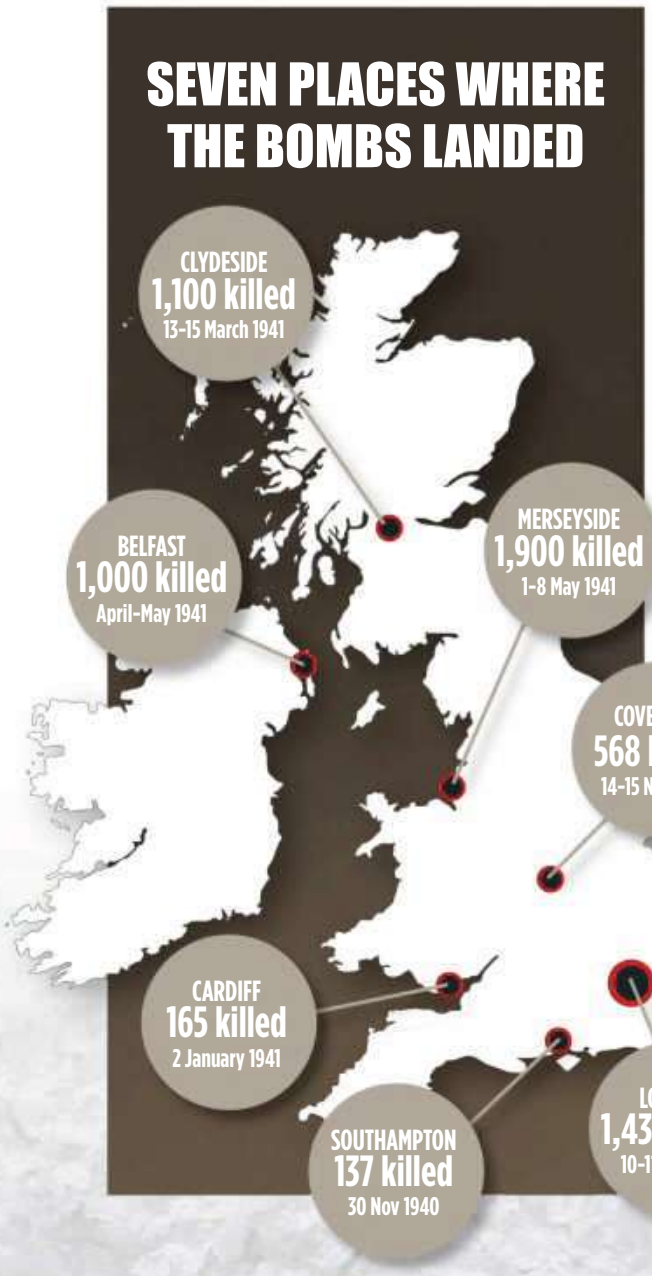
The men of the Home Guard were more adept than their sitcom counterparts

Set up in May 1940 as Britain's 'last line of defence' against a German invasion, the Home Guard was a civilian militia mainly made up of men who were ineligible for active service due to their age, illness or fitness level. Initially called the Local Defence Volunteers, this people's army eventually became known as the Home Guard and, by July 1940, more than 1.5 million men had joined up. Eventually, these men, whose numbers reached 1.7 million, were manning anti-aircraft guns and carrying out bomb disposal tasks, and preparing to resist an invasion. Many women got involved in defence, too, setting up their own units and unofficially assisting the Home Guard in auxiliary capacities. The privately organised Women's Home Defence Corps and the Amazon Defence Corps both undertook rifle training with the Home Guard. Women were officially permitted to join the Home Guard in 1943, though in strictly non-combatant roles only.



Members of the House of Commons defence committee watch men of the Home Guard practice their grenade throwing, in 1940

SEVEN PLACES WHERE THE BOMBS LANDED



THE LUFTWAFFE LETS UP

Although air raids would continue in Britain throughout the war, the volume and ferocity seen in 1940-41 reduced as the Luftwaffe's attention moved eastwards. Plus, as Britain's air defences improved, the Luftwaffe suffered heavier losses when attacking Britain. Nevertheless, thousands of homes and businesses were destroyed by German aerial attacks, and an estimated 60,000 civilians lost their lives – around two-thirds of these during the months of the Blitz.

The damage caused by the Blitz was something that many Britons had to live with for years after the war had ended. Although the government did provide compensation for those whose homes had been bombed, building materials were in short supply so repairs to houses could take time, as historian Daniel Todman explains: "By the end of the war, there were about a 1.5 million buildings in the UK that were still badly damaged and not completely repaired. Many people were living without glass in their windows, with windows boarded up, leaks in the roof and so on; people lived with the legacy of the Blitz for a long time after it ended."

The mid-to-late 1930s had seen a boom in Britain's economy as unemployment levels dropped and people began to aspire for better lives and houses of their own. The war saw this reversed as people moved out of their damaged homes to live with friends and family, and having to spend money on repairs or rented accommodation. Many people had gone backwards, and this would be just one lasting legacy of the Blitz. "The strain of war was not always about the fear of defeat or invasion – for many it was unwanted living situations that went on for years and years," says Todman.

Continues on p56

BELOW LEFT: **Bombed-out families were often left with little in the way of worldly possessions**

BELOW: **Tube stations became impromptu air raid shelters in London**

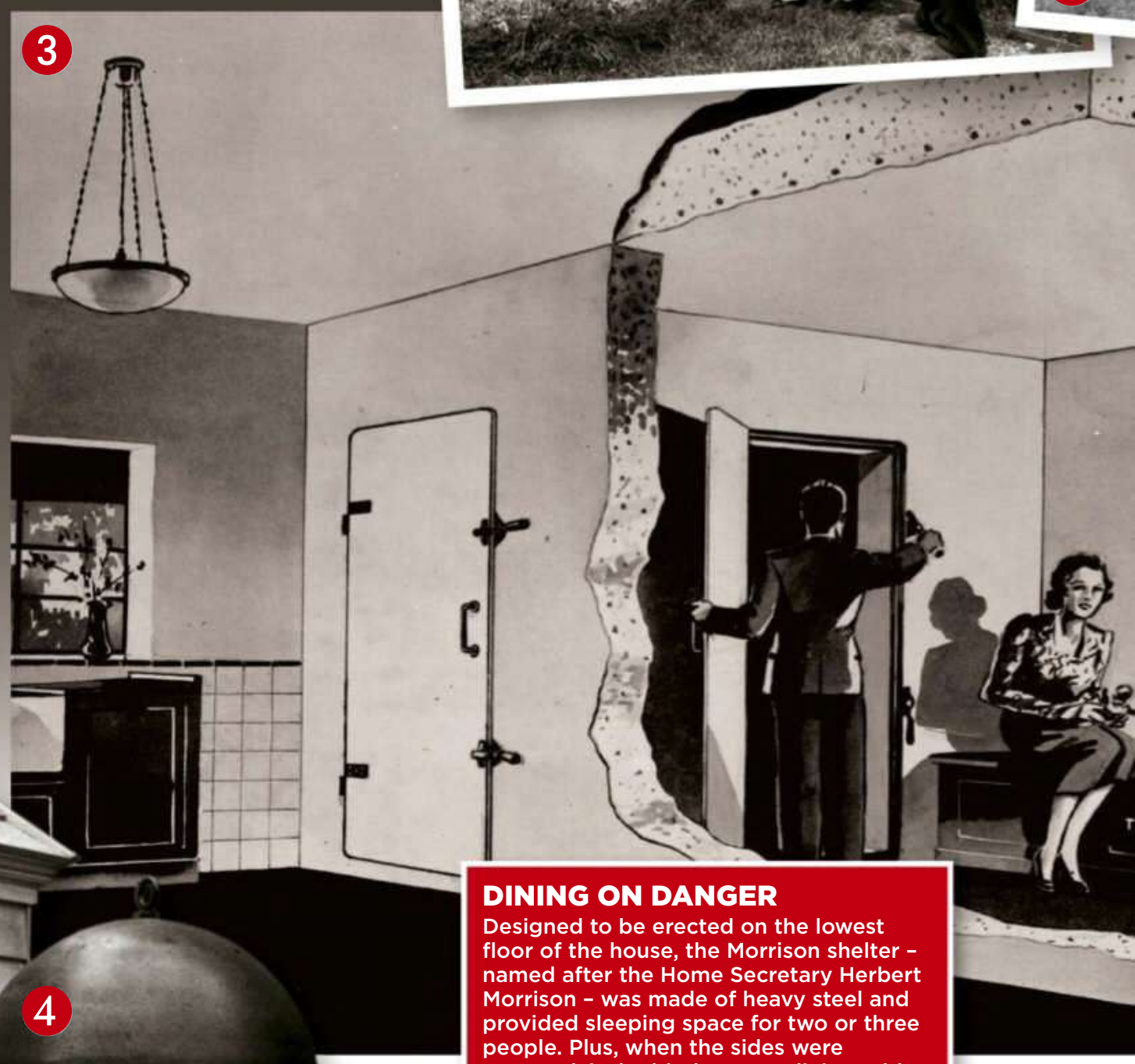
TAKING SHELTER

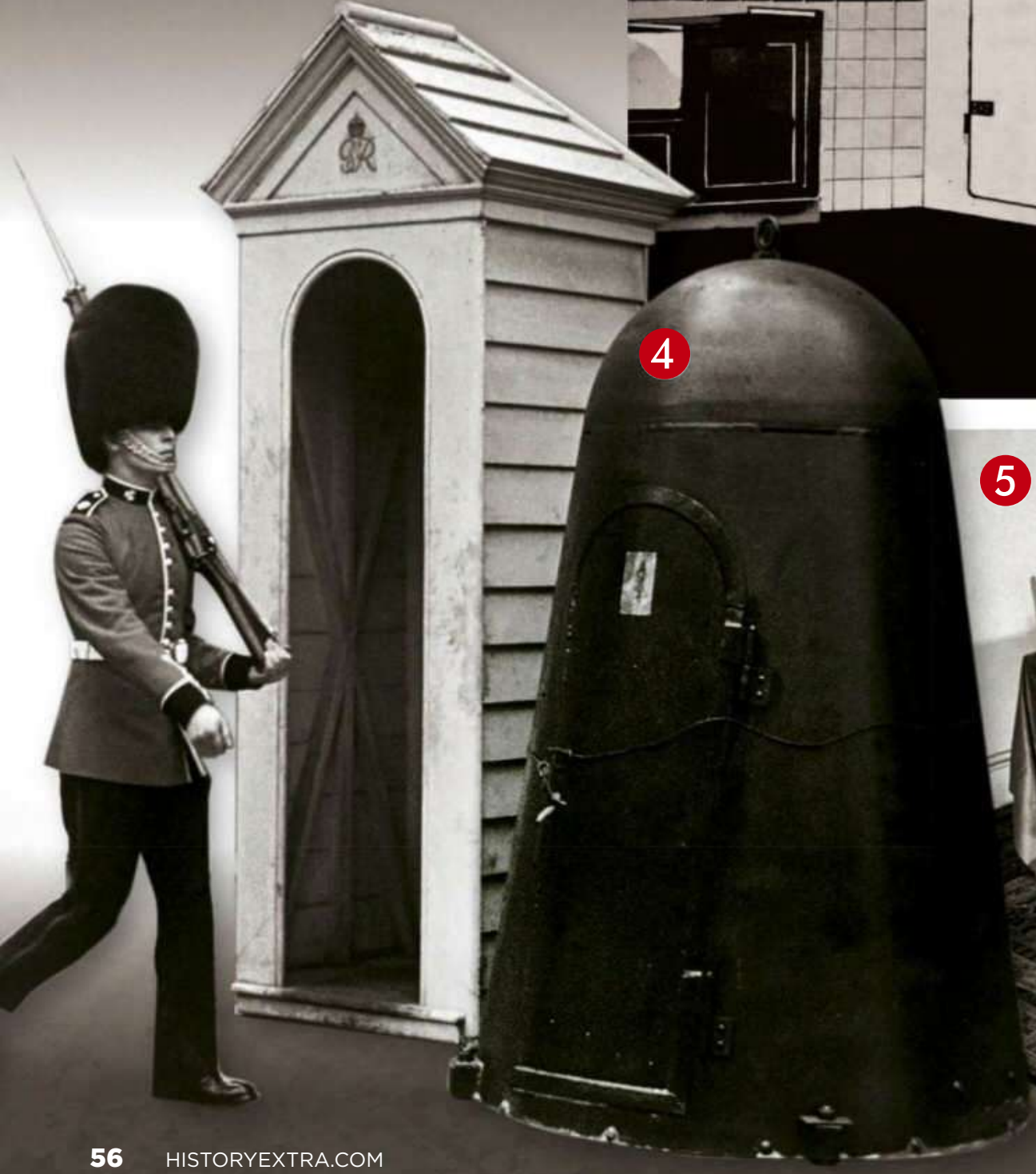
When the sirens wailed, Britons had just minutes to reach the safety of an air raid shelter before the bombs rained down

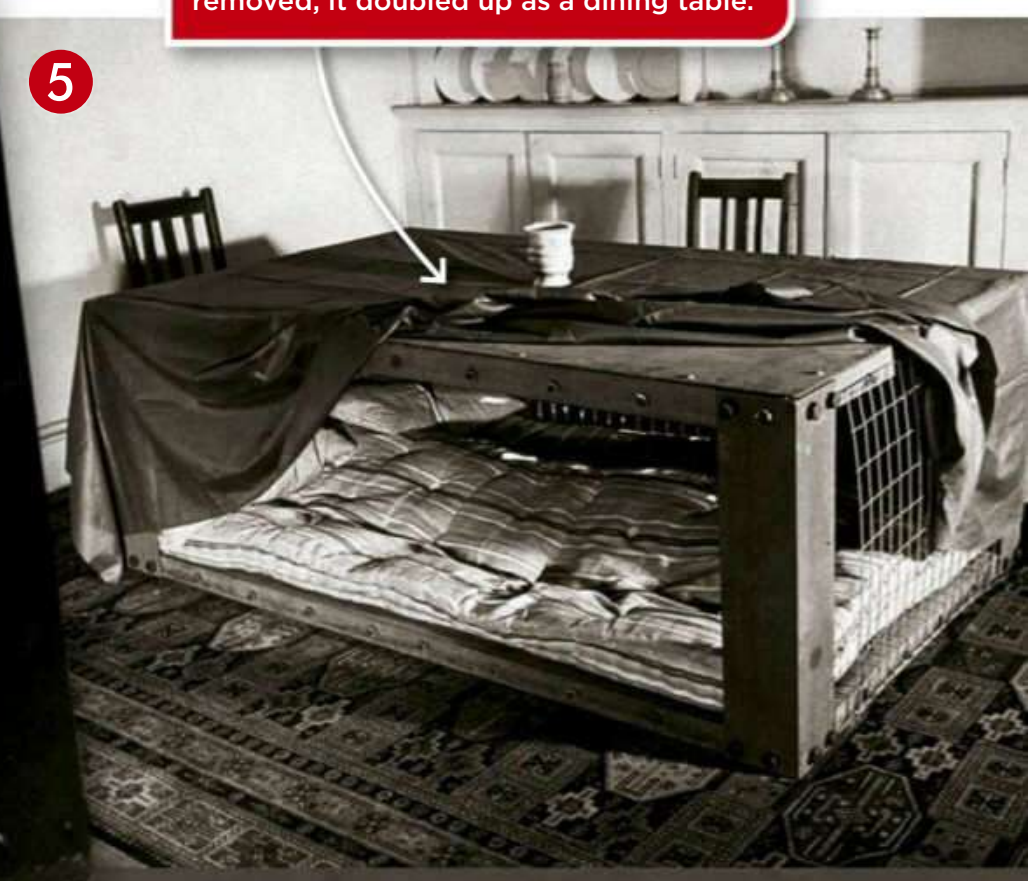
In wartime Britain, aerial attacks were an ever-present threat, so it was crucial, when out and about, or at home, to know where your nearest shelter was. Some 1.5 million Anderson shelters – which could hold up to six people and free to those on low incomes – were distributed in the months leading up to the outbreak of war, while some half a million Morrison shelters, which came in 359 parts, had been issued by the end of 1941. Communal shelters such as tube stations were often fitted with bunks, first aid equipment, chemical toilets and canteens.

1. A family enters a dug-out shelter in their garden, 1939 **2.** Schoolchildren leave concrete air raid shelters after a drill **3.** An illustration of a simple concrete shelter for inside the house, 1938 **4.** A guard on duty with his individual air raid shelter 5. The indoor Morrison shelter

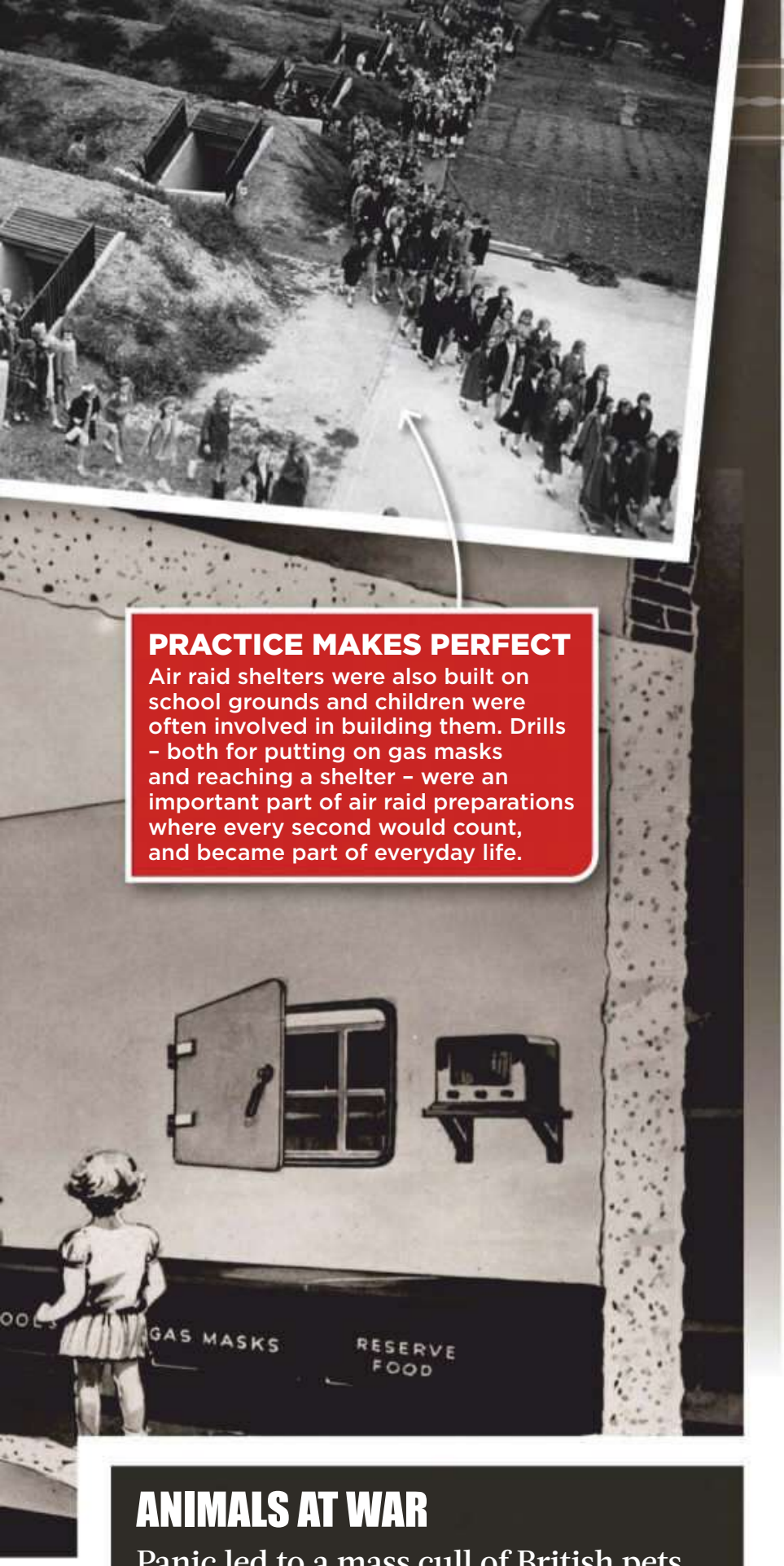
GETTY IMAGES X8, ALAMY X1, BBC X1







DINING ON DANGER
Designed to be erected on the lowest floor of the house, the Morrison shelter – named after the Home Secretary Herbert Morrison – was made of heavy steel and provided sleeping space for two or three people. Plus, when the sides were removed, it doubled up as a dining table.



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT
Air raid shelters were also built on school grounds and children were often involved in building them. Drills – both for putting on gas masks and reaching a shelter – were an important part of air raid preparations where every second would count, and became part of everyday life.

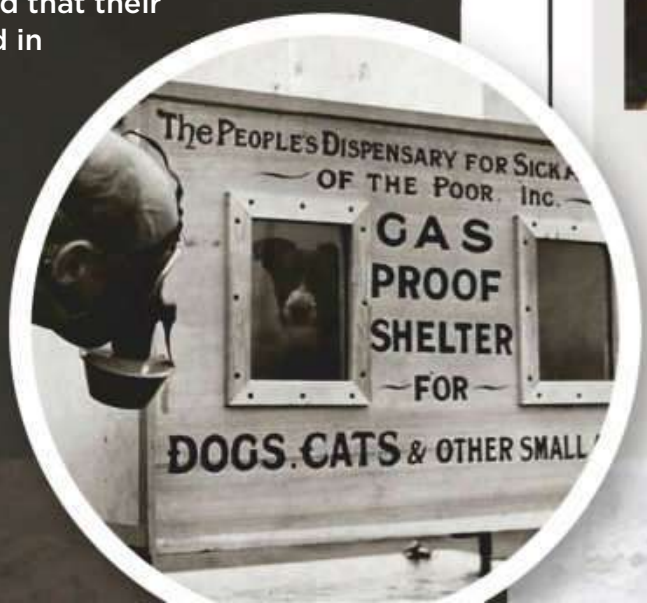
ANIMALS AT WAR

Panic led to a mass cull of British pets

Household pets were another casualty of the war. With no food rations issued for cats or dogs, a government pamphlet was published in the summer of 1939 advising pet owners to take their pets to the safety of the countryside or have them destroyed.

As many as 750,000 cats and dogs were euthanised in the space of a week that autumn, as people panicked about future food shortages or worried that their pets would be killed in bombing attacks.

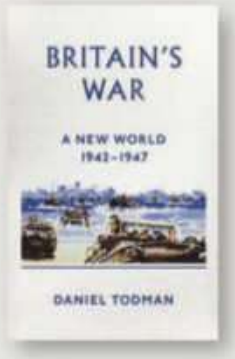
Some pet owners did everything they could to keep their animals safe, though, including purchasing gas-proof pet shelters in case of gas attacks (*right*).



GET HOOKED

If we've whetted your appetite for the WWII home front, why not explore the topic further with our pick of books, films and podcasts

BOOKS



Britain's War II: A New World, 1942-1947

By Prof Daniel Todman (London, Allen Lane, 2020)

Part Two of Daniel Todman's epic history of the Second World War. Each stage of the war, from the nadir of early 1942 to the great series of victories in 1944–45, is described both as it was understood at the time and in the light of the very latest historical research.

Wartime: Britain 1939-1945

By Juliet Gardiner (Headline, 2004)

The danger, courage, deprivation, exhaustion, fear, humour and, sometimes, boredom that the population endured for six years is vividly brought to life through the voices of those who lived through them.

The Secret History of the Blitz

By Joshua Levine (Simon & Schuster UK, 2015)

Joshua Levine's biography examines the human truth of the Blitz – a time of extremes of experience and behaviour. People were pulling together and helping strangers, but they were also breaking rules and exploiting each other. Life during wartime, the author reveals, was complex and messy and real.

ONLINE AND AUDIO

▶ **Radio 4 Collections: World War II** *(BBC Radio 4):* For a selection of programmes about World War II, visit *bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/collections/ww2/*

History Extra

▶ **For podcasts, features, quizzes, interviews and more on the home front, visit the World War II hub on our website: *historyextra.com/period/second-world-war***

WATCH

Darkest Hour

(Streaming on Netflix and Amazon Prime)

In May 1940, the fate of WWII hangs on Winston Churchill, who must decide whether to negotiate with Hitler, or fight on knowing it could mean the end of the British Empire.

Wartime Farm

(BBC Two, now available on DVD)

Historian Ruth Goodman and archaeologists Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn turn back the clock to run Manor Farm in Hampshire exactly as it would have been during World War II.

“Arthur inhabits something of a grey area, where fact and fiction blur, where truth and fantasy dissolve into one another”

ABOVE: **King Arthur in battle, illustrated c1150 – his most famous battle is said to be that of Mount Badon, where he crushed the Anglo-Saxons**

LEFT: **The Knights of the Round Table. In this depiction they’ve acquired the Holy Grail, which sits in the centre**

FAR LEFT: **‘Gallos’ – a sculpture inspired by the legendary king – stands on the headland at Tintagel**

KING ARTHUR: TRUTH AND LEGEND

King Arthur cuts a romantic figure as the quintessential monarch who defended Britain against the Anglo-Saxons and sought the Holy Grail. **Nige Tassell** explores his story...

So many questions are prompted by the legend of King Arthur, questions that have gnawed away at curious academics for centuries. When did he reign as king of the Britons? Did he really pull a sword from a stone? Did his loyal lieutenants sit around a round table? And where was Camelot located? But one question rings out louder than any other: did he even exist?

Arthur inhabits something of a grey area in history, where fact and fiction blur, where truth and fantasy dissolve into one another. In literature, Arthur is a sharply drawn, clearly definable figure to readers, whether determining his own destiny by plucking the sword, Excalibur, from the stone or leading his closest allies the Knights of the Round Table on impossibly heroic quests. To the historian, though, the existence of Thomas Malory's "once and future king" is a more problematic issue, one shrouded in the fog of uncertainty, in the mists of myth.

KING OF THE BRITONS

Arthur is believed to be the monarch who successfully defended Britain against Saxon invaders in the late 5th and early 6th centuries, following the withdrawal of the Romans. There is a fair degree of certainty that there was indeed an individual by the name of Arthur or, at least, Arturus who was the figurehead of a resistance against the Saxons in northern Europe around this time. Whether he was actually king is dubious though: Gildas's contemporary history, *The Ruin and Conquest of Britain*, gives a different name as the ruling monarch during these years. Furthermore, theories exist that any one of several individuals from the so called Dark Ages whether king or Roman officer is the source figure for the tales subsequently told.

Such contradictory information does offer the suggestion that the Arthur who widely appeared in literature from the 11th-century onwards is a composite of different stories about different individuals. The main text that accelerated the interest in the man and his adventures was Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae* (*History of the Kings of Britain*). Treated as a dependable historical source for several centuries, it came to be regarded as pseudohistorical when Geoffrey's accounts of certain historical events such as the nature of Julius Caesar's invasions of Britain diverged from what was proved historically.

Nonetheless, the story of Arthur that Geoffrey sets out across several volumes of his *Historia* captured the imagination of all who heard them. Geoffrey told tales of Arthur defeating the Saxons before defeating Lucius Hiberius in Gaul, with one eye on becoming Roman emperor himself. Geoffrey also tells of Arthur's difficulties back in Britain where, in his absence, his nephew Mordred seduced and married Arthur's precious Guinevere and seized the throne.

Despite no hard evidence backing up these vivid tales, the public were gripped by them. And these were legends that travelled well, being told across continents in many languages.

So why did Arthur, and the legends that define him, attain such currency so many centuries after his supposed lifetime? One theory, previously put forward by historian Michael Wood, is that in the wake of the Norman invasion of 1066, Celtic literature blossomed, particularly stories that showed Celtic Britons triumphing against their new masters. And with new stories springing up to educate and introduce the conquering Normans to Celtic history and culture, Arthur may well have seemed like the perfect heroic protagonist for such tales.

Arthur certainly cut the figure of an irresistible and fearless king clear in ambition, brave in battle, noble in deed. And it's that image that appeals to the imagination, rather than hunting down hard historical proof of his life. For instance, the notion that Arthur's sword plucking exploits handed him the crown was missing from the first accounts of his life; he would have inherited the throne on the death of his father Uther Pendragon.

Similarly, the quest to discover the Holy Grail was a later addition to the Arthurian legend, possibly to add a religious dimension to his adventures. And Camelot, Arthur's renowned castle, was another element grafted onto his story as late as the 12th century. Small wonder that the precise location of this imaginary stronghold has never been revealed.

Nonetheless, the man's legend remains strong, despite its composite nature.

MAIN: **The ruins of Tintagel in Cornwall, a site long associated with King Arthur**

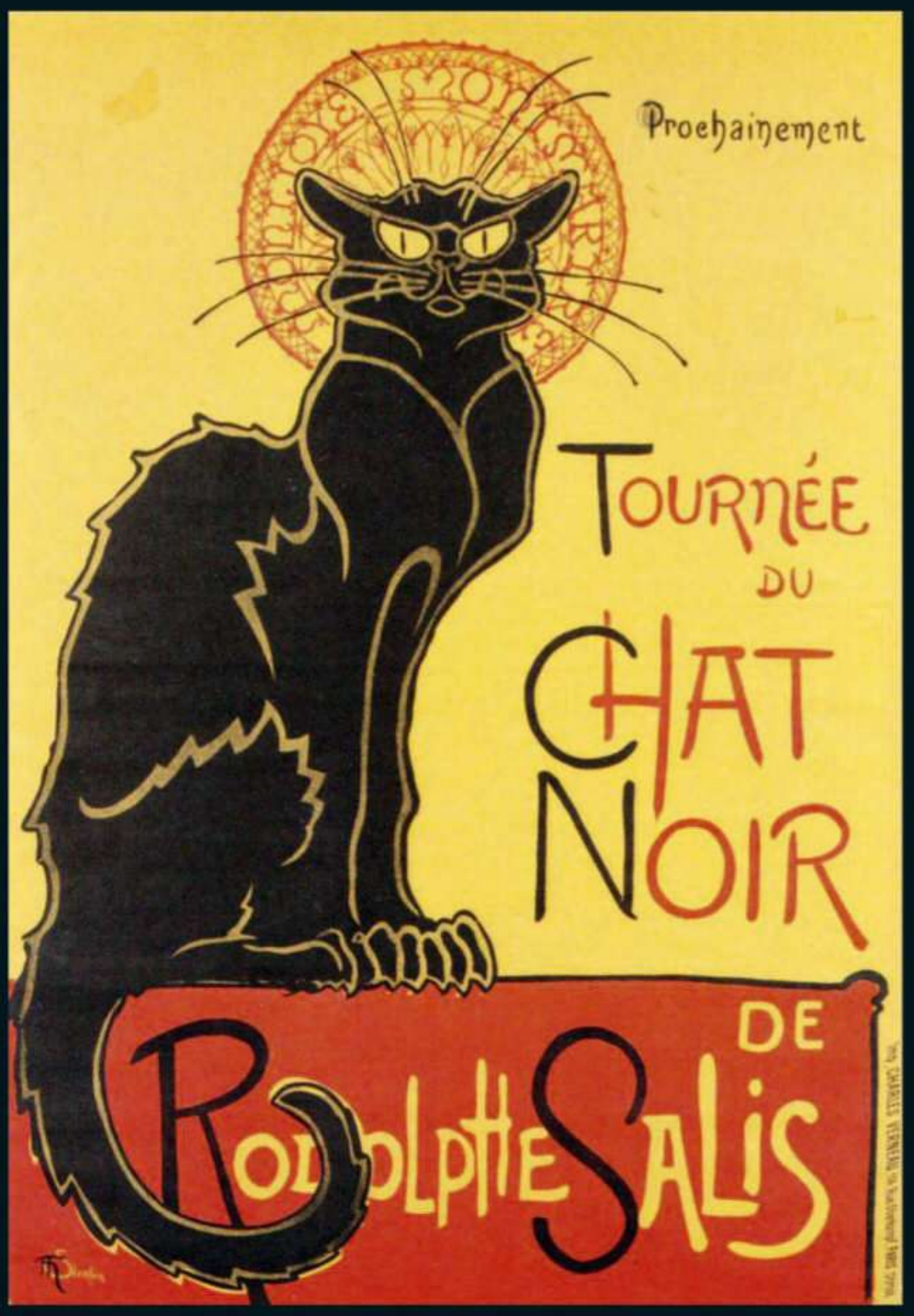
LEFT: **In other Authurian legends, Guinevere has a tryst with Round Table knight Lancelot**

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

POSTERS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

They say a picture is worth a thousand words and when it comes to posters designed to convey a specific message, that's probably a good thing. Over the next four pages, we've pulled together some of history's most iconic posters and the stories behind them – taken from a recently published book, *100 Posters That Changed the World*

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN



LE CHAT NOIR, 1896

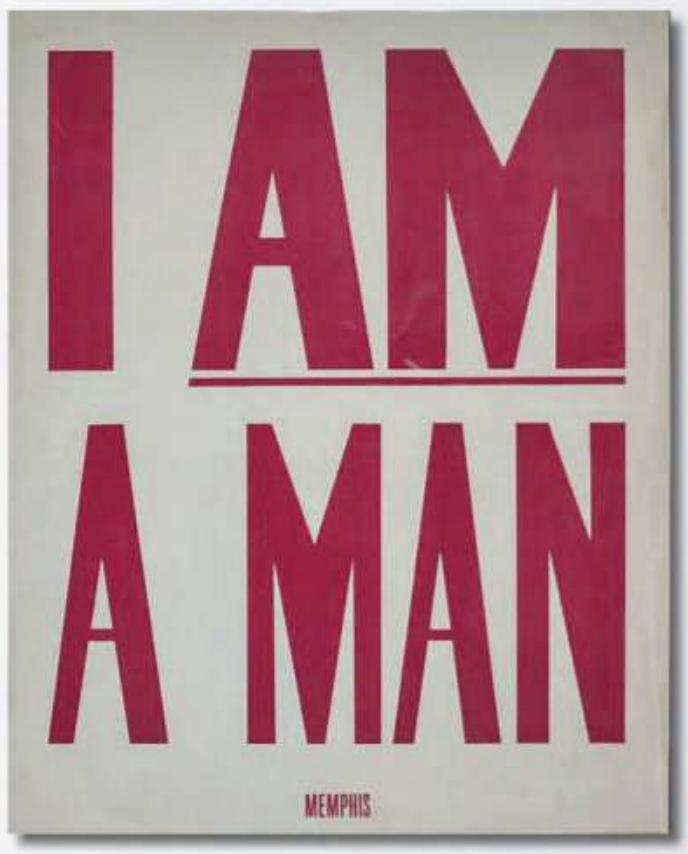
▶ Created as an advertisement poster for tour performances of the famous shadow theatre run by Parisian nightclub Le Chat Noir, Art Nouveau painter and printmaker Théophile-Alexandre Steinlen's aloof, watchful black cat has become as iconic as the club itself. Le Chat Noir – regarded by many as the first cabaret club – originally opened in the bohemian Montmartre district of Paris in 1881, and was soon frequented by all manner of artistic and literary avant-garde patrons, including painter and printmaker Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

POINTING THE FINGER, 1914 & 1917

◀ Appointed War Minister the day after Britain declared war on Germany, in 1914, Lord Herbert Kitchener's high-profile military career and previous victorious campaigns in Egypt, the Sudan and southern Africa made him an obvious choice as the face of army recruitment. This poster, circulated in September 1914, has since become one of the most familiar and parodied posters ever made. Based on Kitchener's famous poster, the sternly pointing finger of Uncle Sam – a popular personification of the US (*above*) – could be found on US recruitment posters in 1917.

DIGNITY, NO LESS, 1968

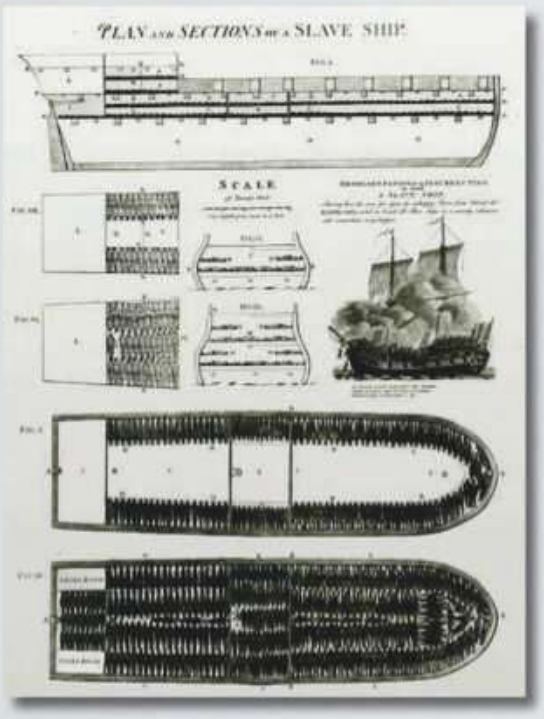
▶ One of the defining moments of the struggle for civil rights in the US was the 1968 strike by black sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, in protest against poor and unsafe working conditions and racial inequality. As 4,000 armed National Guard troops gathered to confront them, the 200 strikers marched silently past them, in single file, each carrying a placard with the words "I AM A MAN" – demanding dignity based on their humanity.



POLITICAL PUNCH, 1978

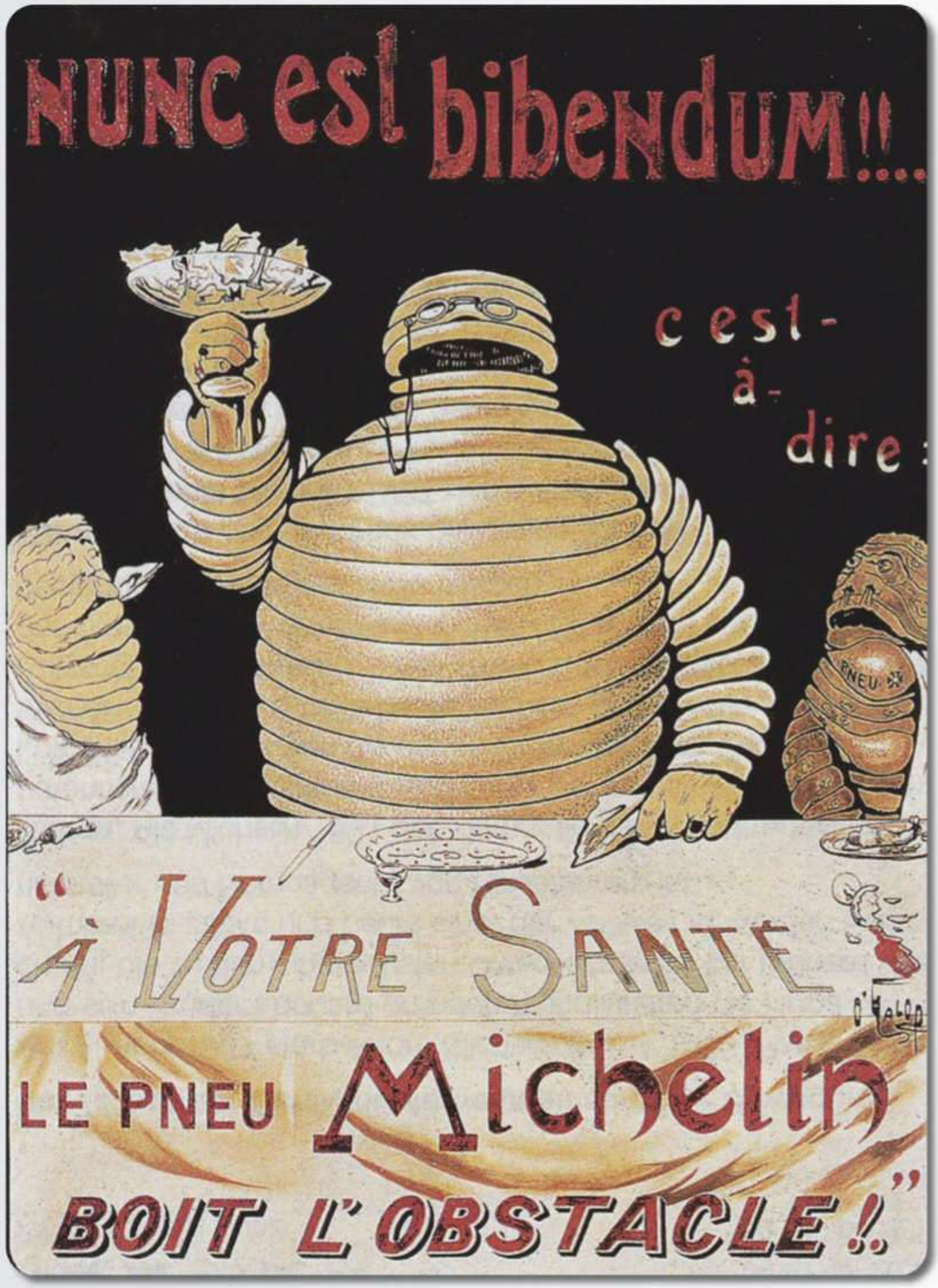
▲ In 1978, Britain, under Labour PM James Callaghan, was battling rising inflation, soaring unemployment levels and strike actions. Anticipating a general election, the Conservative Party, under Margaret Thatcher, hired advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi to create a poster that they felt summed up the country's anger, frustration and anxiety and, ultimately, turn voters to the Tories. A variant of this poster – the slogan updated to "Labour still isn't working" – became one of the defining images of the 1979 election, helping sweep the Conservatives to victory.

ALAMY X4, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS X1



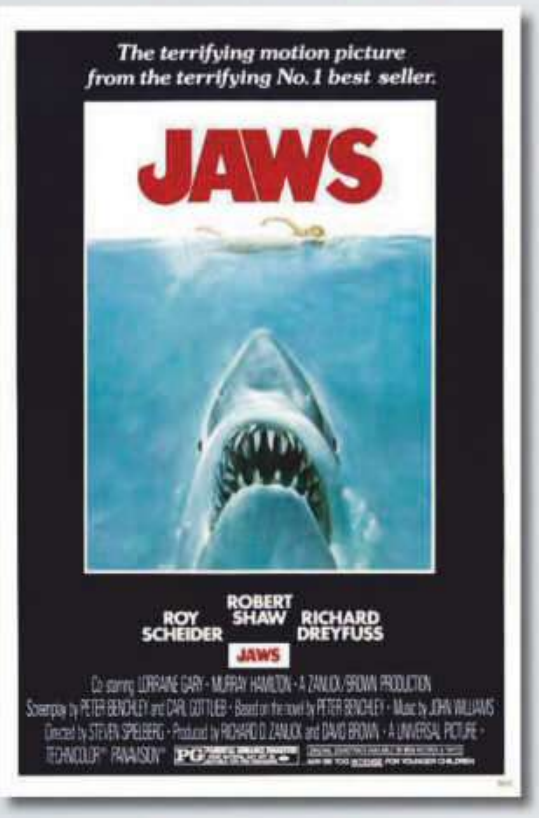
POWERFUL PROPAGANDA, 1788

▲ Designed to shock, this poster, featuring a diagram of the slave ship *Brookes,* packed with 478 slaves in appallingly cramped conditions, is one of the earliest examples of a poster used as propaganda. It was designed by Plymouth members of the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade and was significant in raising awareness of the horrors of the slave trade.



BRAND AMBASSADOR, 1898

▲ One of the earliest product mascots to be used in advertising, the Michelin Man is still around today, although his look has changed somewhat. Unlike today's version, the original Michelin Man was made out of white tyres – tyres wouldn't be black until 1912, when carbon was added to the rubber mix.



SOMETHING IN THE WATER, 1975

▲ Anyone seeing this poster would be left in little doubt as to what lay ahead in director Steven Spielberg's horror classic. Despite the huge shark depicted, Spielberg kept the real shark implicit for much of the film – the shark of the audience's collective imagination being far more terrifying.

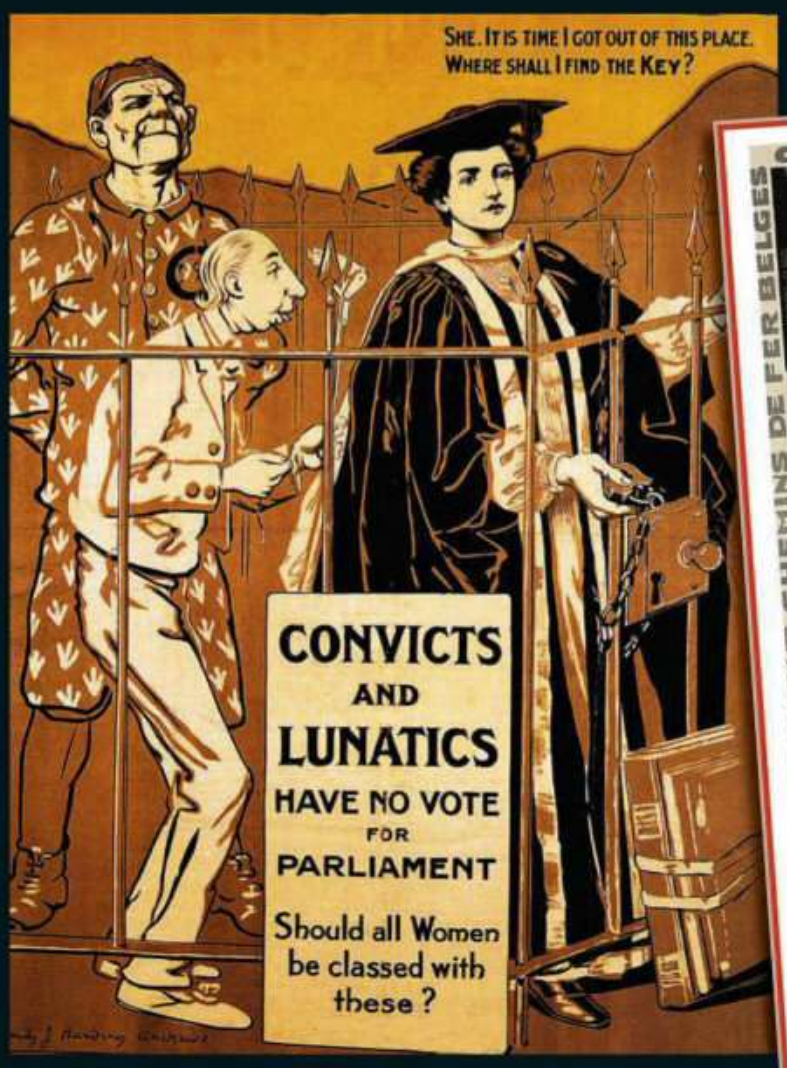
BIG SMOKE, 1950s

◀ In an age where smoking was seen as glamorous and not as the killer we know it to be today, celebrity endorsements were essential for tobacco companies. *The Frank Sinatra Show*, on ABC Television from October 1957–June 1958, was actually sponsored by Chesterfield.

ALAMY X7, STEFAN R. LANDSBERGER COLLECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES X1

THE CULT OF MAO, 1966-76

▲ Chinese leader Mao Zedong relied heavily on posters to communicate with the Chinese people during his Cultural Revolution – the period from 1966-76, which saw Mao try to reassert his authority over the Chinese government and purge the 'impure' elements of Chinese society, leading to millions of deaths. Posters depicting Mao as a benevolent figure – "*hong, guang, liang*" (red, bright, and shining) – could be found both inside and outside the home. Much of the inspiration for Mao's imagery, both ideologically and graphically, was taken from Soviet propaganda (*right, titled Long Live the Great Invincible Banner of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, 1953*).


SHE. IT IS TIME I GOT OUT OF THIS PLACE. WHERE SHALL I FIND THE KEY?
CONVICTS AND LUNATICS HAVE NO VOTE FOR PARLIAMENT
Should all Women be classed with these ?

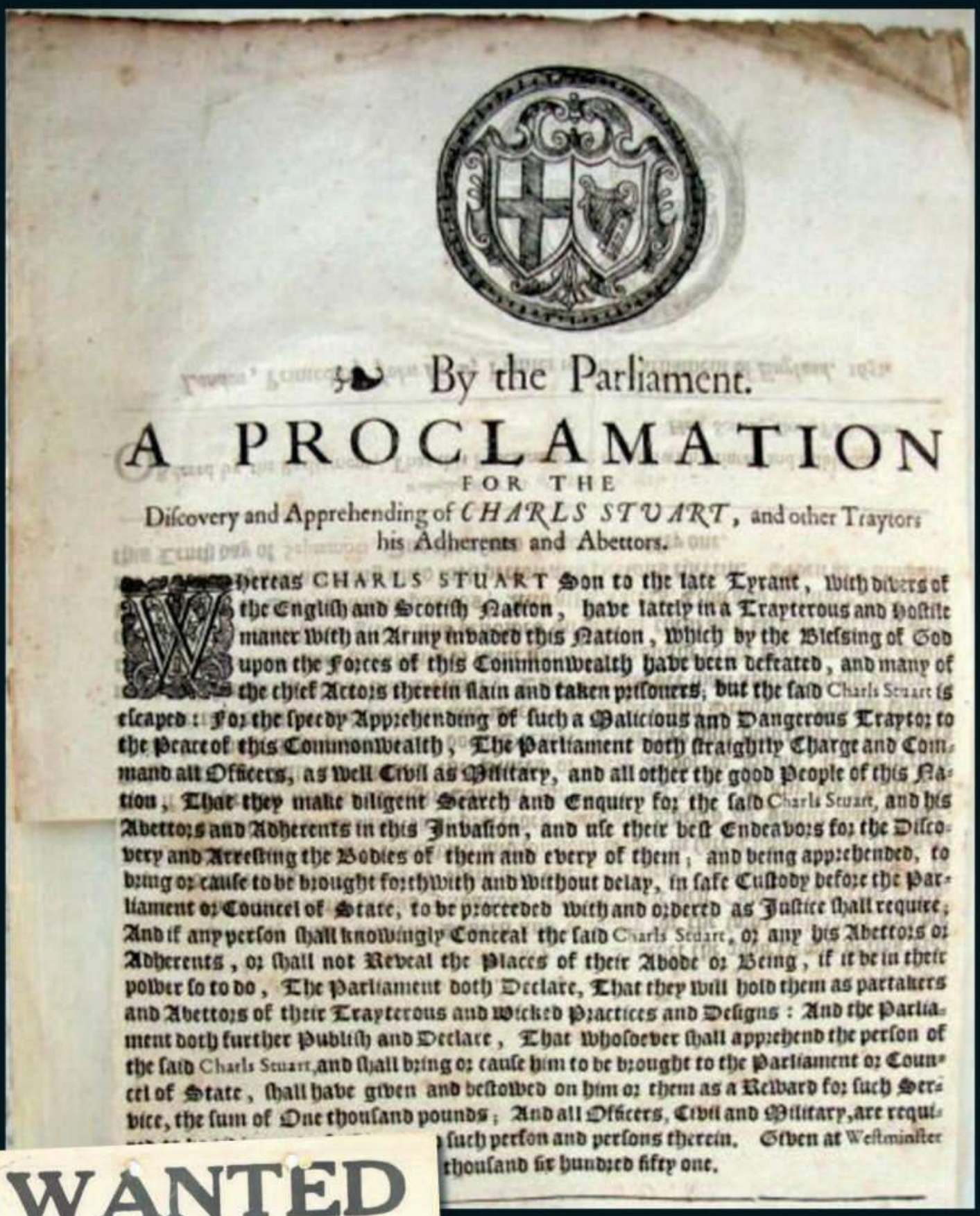
CHEMIN DE FER DU NORD
A.M.CASSANDRE
NORD EXPRESS
SOUTHERN RAILWAY = CHEMINS DE FER BELGES
DEUTSCHE REICHSBAHN GES.= POLSKIE KOLEJE PAŃSTWOWE
LONDRES BRUXELLES PARIS LIEGE BERLIN VARSOVIE RIGA
COMPAGNIE DES WAGONS-LITS

ALL ABOARD, 1927

◀ The 1920s and '30s are often seen as the golden age of poster design and graphic artists such as Cassandre were employed to lure potential travellers with crisp, stencilled imagery and inviting typography.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, c1907

◀◀ The campaign for women's suffrage used visual art as a political weapon. This poster was designed by Emily Harding, who was arrested and imprisoned twice during suffrage demonstrations. ▶



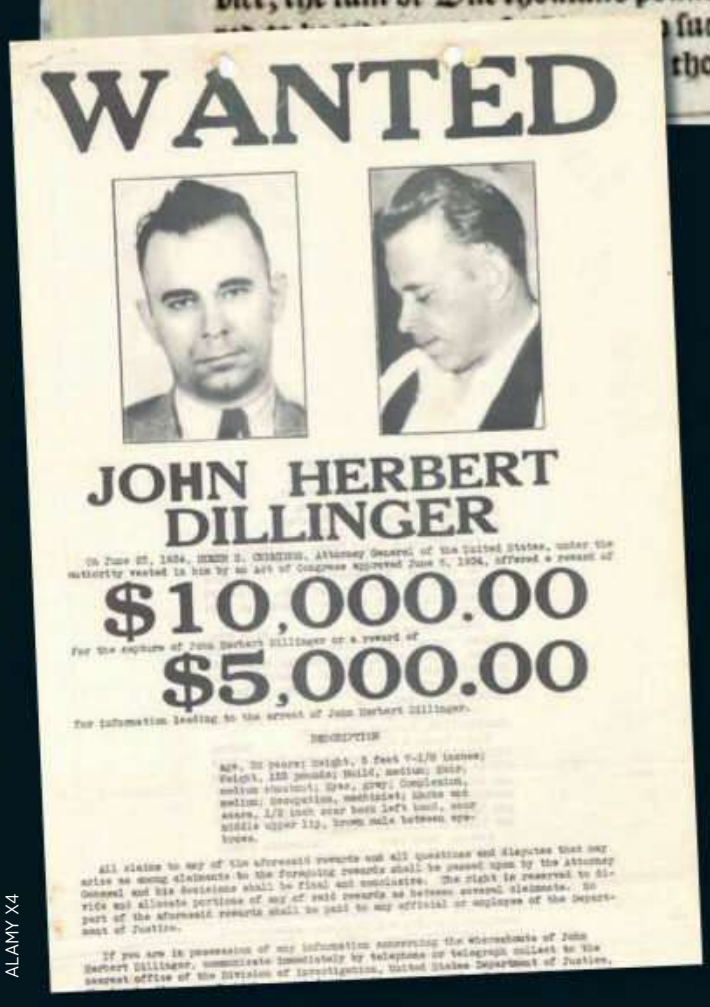
By the Parliament.

A PROCLAMATION

FOR THE

Discovery and Apprehending of *CHARLS STUART*, and other Traytors his Adherents and Abettors.

Whereas CHARLS STUART Son to the late Tyrant, with divers of the English and Scotish Nation, have lately in a Trayterous and Hostile maner with an Army invaded this Nation, which by the Blessing of God upon the Forces of this Commonwealth have been defeated, and many of the chief Actors therein slain and taken prisoners, but the said Charls Stuart is escaped: For the speedy Apprehending of such a Malicious and Dangerous Traytor to the Peace of this Commonwealth, The Parliament doth straightly Charge and Command all Officers, as well Civil as Military, and all other the good People of this Nation, That they make diligent Search and Enquiry for the said Charls Stuart, and his Abettors and Adherents in this Invasion, and use their best Endeavors for the Discovery and Arresting the Bodies of them and every of them; and being apprehended, to bring or cause to be brought forthwith and without delay, in safe Custody before the Parliament or Council of State, to be proceeded with and ordered as Justice shall require; And if any person shall knowingly Conceal the said Charls Stuart, or any his Abettors or Adherents, or shall not Reveal the Places of their Abode or Being, if it be in their power so to do, The Parliament doth Declare, That they will hold them as partakers and Abettors of their Trayterous and Wicked Practices and Designs: And the Parliament doth further Publish and Declare, That whosoever shall apprehend the person of the said Charls Stuart, and shall bring or cause him to be brought to the Parliament or Council of State, shall have given and bestowed on him or them as a Reward for such Service, the sum of One thousand pounds; And all Officers, Civil and Military, are required to assist such person and persons therein. Given at Westminster the [illegible] day of [illegible] thousand six hundred fifty one.



WANTED

JOHN HERBERT DILLINGER

$10,000.00

$5,000.00

ALAMY X4

WANTED! 1651 & 1934

▲ Although most often associated with the Wild West, 'Wanted' posters actually date back to 17th-century England; the example pictured above is one of the most famous of its kind. Issued days after the battle of Worcester, which had seen Charles II's royalist forces defeated by Cromwell's New Model Army during the Civil Wars, this poster offers a £1,000 reward for the apprehension of Charles, who had fled the battlefield. He eventually escaped to France, before returning to reclaim the throne in 1660.

By 1934, when gangster John Dillinger (*left*) went on the run after multiple bank robberies and murders, Wanted posters had evolved somewhat to include a mugshot. Dillinger was eventually shot dead by Bureau of Investigations officers (the precursor to the FBI) in Chicago, after he broke cover to watch a film.

DIRECT APPEAL, 1918

▲ Formed in 1915 in response to the murders or expulsion of as many as 1.5 million ethnic Armenians by Turks of the Ottoman empire during WWI, graphic posters of innocent children focused attention, and relief, on the Armenian orphans.

HO, HO, HO, 1952

▲ This version of Coca-Cola's famously red-cheeked, jovial Santa was introduced in the 1950s, but the white-bearded fellow was first used in Coca-Cola advertisements in 1931. He is depicted drinking straight from the bottle to better show the product to customers. ⊙

GET HOOKED

READ

100 Posters That Changed The World, by Colin Salter is out now, published by Pavilion Books

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL MAGIC

Was it all witches, broomsticks and potions brewing in cauldrons? Or was magical belief in the Middle Ages more enlightened than the Renaissance? **Dr Hetta Howes** casts her spell…

GETTY IMAGES X3

Want to get rid of an unwanted husband? Coat yourself in honey, roll naked in grain and cook him some deadly bread with flour milled from this mixture. What if you want to increase the amount of supplies in your barn? Simply leave out child-sized shoes and bows and arrows for the satyrs and goblins to play with. If you're lucky, they might steal some of your neighbour's goods for you in return.

The unusual charms and medical tips such as these, which featured in medieval books, sound suspiciously like magic. But alongside these weird and wonderful spells and superstitions, medieval history paints a picture of a people who were, in some ways, actually more enlightened than their Renaissance successors. But what was medieval magic *really* like?

SEASON OF THE WITCH

The all too familiar figure of the 'witch' – a frightening old hag with warts on her nose and curses at her fingertips – didn't appear until the 15th century. Despite being dubbed 'the Renaissance' and 'the Age of Discovery', remembered for the moves towards modernity and advances in scientific knowledge and culture, the centuries that followed the medieval period were witness not only to ruthless witch hunts, but a new belief in the reality of magic.

FAR RIGHT: ***Malleus Maleficarum*, the infamous witch-hunting handbook**

ABOVE: **Witch hunts targeted women most**

TOP: **An illustration from the book showing women as linked with satanic magic**

In the Middle Ages, though, the practice of magic was not yet imagined as being essentially 'female'. In fact, according to court records from the first half of the 14th century, the majority of those tried for maleficium (meaning sorcery or dark magic intended to cause harm) were men. That was because the most troubling form of magic – necromancy – required skill, learning, preparation, and above all education, which was less readily available to women. Necromancy involved conjuring the dead and making them perform feats of transportation or illusion, or asking them to reveal the secrets of the universe. Since many books describing necromancy were Latin translations, anyone wanting to practise the craft would need a good working knowledge of the language.

It wasn't until the publication of Heinrich Kramer's *Malleus Maleficarum* (or, *Hammer of Witches*) in 1487 that the specific connection between women and satanic magic became widespread. Kramer, a German inquisitor, warned that "women's spiritual weakness" and "natural proclivity for evil" made them particularly susceptible to the temptations of the Devil. He believed that "all witchcraft comes from carnal lust", and that women's "uncontrolled" sexuality made them the likely culprits of any sinister occurrence.

Hand-in-hand with this increased emphasis on women came a shift in the perception of magic. Evidence suggests that medieval church authorities (whose successors would spearhead the witch-hunts) didn't really believe magic was real, although they still condemned

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X2

anyone who claimed to practise it.

The 10th century *Canon Episcopi*, described women who, seduced by illusions from the Devil, believed they could fly on the backs of "certain beasts" in the middle of the night alongside the goddess Diana. The text, rather than taking this seriously, dismissed these women as "stupid" and "foolish" for actually believing that they could accomplish such things. They were criticised for being tricked rather than for practising any real, magical mischief.

BLACK SABBATH

During the 15th and 16th centuries, however, inquisitors seemed to believe that women really could make magic happen by entering into pacts with the Devil. It was thought that at sabbaths nocturnal meetings with other witches women renounced their Christian faith, devoured babies, participated in orgies and committed other carnal and unspeakable acts.

Afterwards, the devils worshipped would watch their women for signs and then do their bidding. For example, if a witch put her broomstick in water and spoke certain words, a devil might cause a storm or flood. Magic of this kind wasn't always harmful. Witches might be able to heal as a result of a pact, or perform other kinds of positive magic. But, because of their fundamental belief that all magic was carried out by demons and devils, inquisitors condemned it just the same.

ABOVE LEFT: **The herb vervain has long thought to have had magical and healing properties**

ABOVE: **Complex magic, like necromancy, required an education, so was actually more the pursuit of men**

MAGIC OR MEDICINE?

Certain practices that sound to us very much like magic would have been classed as science or medicine in the Middle Ages. William of Auvergne, a 13th century French bishop and theologian, certainly condemned most magic as superstition, yet he admitted some works of "natural magic" should be viewed as a branch of science. As long as practitioners didn't use it for evil, they weren't doing anything criminal. Sealskin could quite happily be used as a charm to repel lightning; vulture body parts could be used as a protective amulet; and gardeners could get virgins to plant their olive trees without any concerns this was a scientific way of promoting growth.

A number of male medical practices from the Middle Ages might also sound like magic to a modern reader:

> "THE FAMILIAR FIGURE OF THE WITCH DID NOT APPEAR UNTIL THE 15TH CENTURY"

A 16th-century engraving showing a woman using magic to unleash a storm

one doctor instructed physicians to place the herb vervain in their patient's hand. Its presence would, it was believed at the time, cause the patient to speak his or her fate truthfully, and so offer the physician an accurate prognosis.

'Sympathetic magic' was another technique, using imitation to produce results. So, vulture liver might be prescribed to a patient with liver complaints. Meanwhile, narrative charms a complex version of sympathetic magic, hinged on the belief that a story could channel healing power were usually accompanied by a 'medical' application, like a poultice. According to one medical treatise, wool soaked in olive oil from the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem could staunch blood when coupled with a spoken story about Longinus, the Roman centurion who pierced Christ's side at the crucifixion and was healed of his blindness by Christ's blood. Religious elements were blended with the magical.

Although some of these methods were considered superstition by the Christian Church in the Middle Ages, they were never associated with demonic magic until the dawning of the witch hunts. Even though women tried for witchcraft were accused of more diabolical doings than using charms or stories to heal, many women became afraid of carrying out such practices for fear of attracting suspicion of darker deeds.

Medieval history offers us a magical potion of stories and practices infused with charms, herbs and superstition. While some of the examples might seem curious to us, they are evidence of a people trying to make sense of, and control, their surroundings – just as we do today.

HETTA HOWES is a lecturer in Medieval and Early Modern Literature at City, University of London

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WHAT IF... RICHARD III WON AT BOSWORTH?

Jonny Wilkes talks to **Professor Emeritus Michael Hicks** about how Richard III might have recovered his reputation, to some extent, and consigned the Tudors to historical obscurity

Richard III had a clear advantage going into the battle of Bosworth Field on 22 August 1485. As king of England, he commanded an army two or three times the size of the ragtag Lancastrian force that sailed from France, he had brought more cannon, and he was a seasoned warrior. His enemy, a Lancastrian with a tenuous claim to the throne named Henry Tudor, had never seen battle. When Richard heard of Henry's landing, he was overjoyed: he had a chance to crush this pretender once and for all.

"With the larger army, substantial ordnance and archery, and a fighting ground of his choosing, Richard was best placed for a defensive battle," says Michael Hicks, Professor Emeritus at the University of Winchester and author of *Richard III: The Self Made King* (Yale, 2019). "Henry had to attack a strongly entrenched position." Yet Richard famously lost the day, ending 331 years of Plantagenet rule and ushering in the Tudor dynasty, as key allies failed to join the fray and, in some cases, actually turned on their king and attacked his flank.

If the brothers Lord Thomas and Sir William Stanley had stayed loyal to Richard or if they had heeded the king's warning that he would execute Thomas's son if they didn't fight for him and if Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, had come to Richard's aid, then Henry Tudor's reign might never have begun.

Henry gambled everything on achieving a decisive victory with his 5,000 strong army, an uneasy alliance of Lancastrians, disgruntled Yorkists, Bretons, French, Scots and Welsh. The pivotal moment came when Richard, spotting Henry at the rear of the action, led a mounted charge. Breaking through, he unhorsed the mighty John Cheyney, killed Henry's standard bearer and came within killing distance of Henry himself. With one more slash of his blade, Richard could have ended Henry's bid for the throne and made safe his own rule. Hicks says: "Richard would have continued to reign with his dynasty secured. It's unlikely another formidable threat could have been raised for years, if then."

TUDOR BECOMES TRIVIAL?

Henry may well have perished in the battle, along with his uncle Jasper, leaving no heir to carry on his claim. "If Henry had died, who knows who might have taken his place as contender to the throne" says Hicks. "His strength was that he was not Richard. But how could a newcomer secure support?" Even if, in the case of a Yorkist victory, Henry had survived, what awaited him would have been capture and possible execution or exile. The name of the Tudors would have become nothing more than a historical footnote.

With victory in battle seen as proof of God's favour, Richard even though he had faced stern opposition following his taking of the throne in 1483 and the disappearance of the Princes in the Tower could have strengthened his position. In the aftermath, he would undoubtedly have extinguished any remaining Lancastrian support and taken vengeance on those who had not supported him. "Richard had a track record for executing opponents and would certainly have disposed of the Tudors, the Earl of Oxford and any traitors," says Hicks. This may well have included the Stanleys and Northumberland.

A priority of Richard's continued reign, with significant political, diplomatic and dynastic implications, would have been to remarry. He had lost his son and wife Anne within a year so

IN CONTEXT

Richard, fourth son of the Duke of York, was not destined to be king of England, even after his brother won the crown in the Wars of the Roses and became Edward IV. When Edward died in 1483, his son Edward V ascended the throne, but Richard, chosen as Lord Protector, supplanted his nephew only a few months later.

As Richard III, he faced opposition both from nobles whom he had replaced with his own supporters and from Yorkists, who named him a usurper and suspected murderer of his two nephews – the Princes in the Tower. A Lancastrian with a feeble royal claim, Henry Tudor, was declared king by the rebels and defeated Richard at the battle of Bosworth Field on 22 August 1485. Henry VII united the roses of York and Lancaster by marrying Elizabeth of York, Edward IV's daughter, while Richard's reputation was denigrated by Tudor propaganda, including in the popular works of William Shakespeare.

Richard III was much maligned after his death, though that may have a lot to do with Tudor portrayals of him

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X1

Richard III's downfall at the battle of Bosworth Field marked an ignominious end to the Plantagenet dynasty

Henry VII's future wife Elizabeth of York might have made a suitable bride for a victorious Richard – even though she was his niece

securing a new queen would have been vital. "Richard needed a fertile wife able to bear children," says Hicks. "She would need to have been a lady of royal or perhaps noble birth, but definitely not a parvenu and widow, which his brother Edward IV's queen, Elizabeth Woodville, had been." A promising prospect was Portuguese princess Joanna, sister of John II, as this union would have formed a strategic alliance.

Richard may have looked to enhance this alliance by marrying his niece, Elizabeth of York, to John's cousin, Manuel. Hicks suggests that Elizabeth may even have been Richard's option for his own bride. "Marrying Elizabeth would have strengthened his own position and denied her title to foes. Richard would have needed to seek approval from the Pope for the union, but there were precedents to uncle-niece marriages."

Richard could then have turned his attention to governing the realm. Pursuing a commitment to law and justice, and a willingness to reform, as seen in the years before Bosworth, he may have made further changes to the legal system, which could have benefited the poor and under-represented. His sights would also have been on foreign matters.

Although the French had aided Henry, Hicks points out that they were never "officially hostile and so would have cultivated good relations".

By fostering relations with France, Spain and Portugal through marriage alliances or treaties, Richard's ongoing reign would still have impacted England in the decades after his death. If there was no Tudor dynasty, there would have been no Henry VIII. So, as Reformation swept over Europe, England may have remained Catholic – Richard was a pious and conventional Catholic, and his successors would probably have been the same – or, at least, not moved over to Protestantism as quickly as seen in the 1530s with Henry VIII's split from Rome.

"If Richard continued after Bosworth, he would have been a more consistent ruler than Edward IV, similar to what we saw in Henry VII's centralising and authoritarian rule, and more conventionally chivalric," says Hicks. Now regarded as a divisive figure – murderer or misunderstood? – Hicks concludes that Richard could instead have been seen as a "competent medieval king, seldom remembered".

"WITH ONE MORE SLASH OF HIS BLADE, RICHARD COULD HAVE ENDED HENRY'S BID FOR THE THRONE AND MADE SAFE HIS RULE"

DID YOU KNOW?

CAUSE OF DEATH

The discovery of Richard III's remains beneath a Leicester car park in 2012 finally revealed how the king died. A powerful swipe by a large blade, possibly a halberd, sliced off the back of his skull, while a sword thrust penetrated his brain.

LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4 Melvyn Bragg and his guests discuss the battle of Bosworth Field on an episode of *In Our Time*.

bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01ghc43

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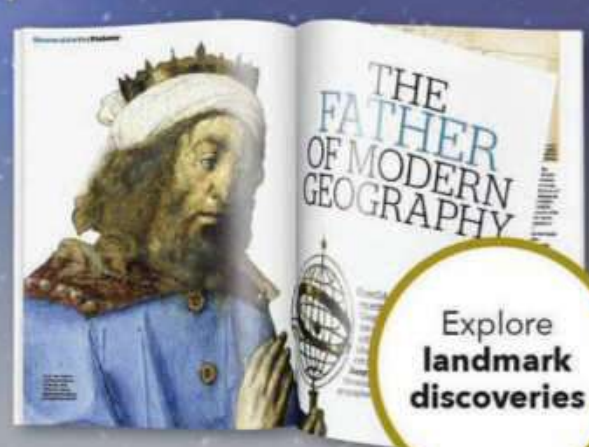

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The number of cathedrals that have been built on the site of St Paul's in London. Work on the latest, designed by Christopher Wren, was completed in 1710

STARING AT THE SUN
The face in the Aztec calendar stone is thought to represent Tonatiuh, the sun god

When was the Aztec calendar stone discovered?

SHORT ANSWER Workers in Mexico City found, in 1790, a colossal stone with mysterious markings

LONG ANSWER Weighing more than 24 tonnes of volcanic basalt, and measuring 3.5 metres in diameter and nearly one metre thick and such a beautiful example of Aztec sculpture and culture that it is now a national treasure in Mexico the so called calendar stone is quite a thing to misplace. Except, it wasn't exactly misplaced. In the aftermath of Hernán Cortés and his Spanish conquistadors routing the Aztecs in 1521, the stone would be buried in what is now the Zócalo, the main square in Mexico City, as part of a purge of all things Aztec.

There the colossal circular stone remained until 17 December 1790, when workers carrying out repairs on public spaces unearthed it. The carved hieroglyphics and motifs have helped anthropologists better understand Aztec beliefs, cosmology and calendars they had two, a ritual one and a civic one but despite its common name the stone was not a calendar at all. It may have been an altar, anointed with sacrificial blood. At the centre of the carvings is the sun god Tonatiuh (which is why it's also called the Sun Stone), holding a heart in each hand and with a sacrificial blade for a tongue.

GETTY IMAGES X2

POPS OF COLOUR
Unlike these bright fireworks, the ancient Chinese fashioned theirs from bamboo stalks

13,171

The approximate total length, in miles, of the Great Wall of China – though it should be noted that it is not one single wall

What were the first fireworks made of?

SHORT ANSWER Gunpowder changed warfare and added a splash of colour to night-time entertainment

LONG ANSWER Fireworks were an ancient invention, and most likely came from China. The first ones were developed from a natural form of firecracker used by the Chinese from around the second century BC, when bamboo sticks would be thrown onto a fire, causing them to pop, fizz and explode. It was believed the noises warded off evil spirits.

Around the ninth century, gunpowder was invented, supposedly by an alchemist searching for the secret to eternal life, changing weaponry forever. The black powder would be poured into hollow bamboo stalks (later, paper tubes) and lit, sending sparks into the air an idea credited to a monk named Li Tian.

In medieval England, the handling of fireworks became a specialty of the 'green men', so named due to the fresh leaves they wore as protection from sparks.

What was the Battle of the Thirty?

SHORT ANSWER The clue's in the name: 30 knights from one side fought 30 knights from the other... chivalrously

LONG ANSWER For decades in the 14th century, the Duchy of Brittany was hotly contested between Charles of Blois, supported by his uncle Philip VI of France, and John of Montfort, with the backing of English king Edward III. Then one man hoped to end the feud in a single mini battle. Jean de Beaumanoir, a Blois loyalist, issued a challenge to Montfort's man, Sir Robert Bramborough, for 30 knights and squires from each side to fight at the halfway point between their respective castles.

On 27 March 1351, the Battle of the Thirty raged between Beaumanoir's Bretons and Bramborough's mostly English force. It lasted hours, with knights needing to take a couple of breaks due to exhaustion, before Bramborough died alongside nine or ten of his men while the victorious Beaumanoir lost six at most. The battle came to be seen as the supreme paradigm of chivalry, but it didn't matter. Montfort won the Breton succession anyway.

WANT TO BRETON IT?
Blois loyalists wagered Brittany on a 30-vs-30 battle – not that it made any difference

Who created the first manga?

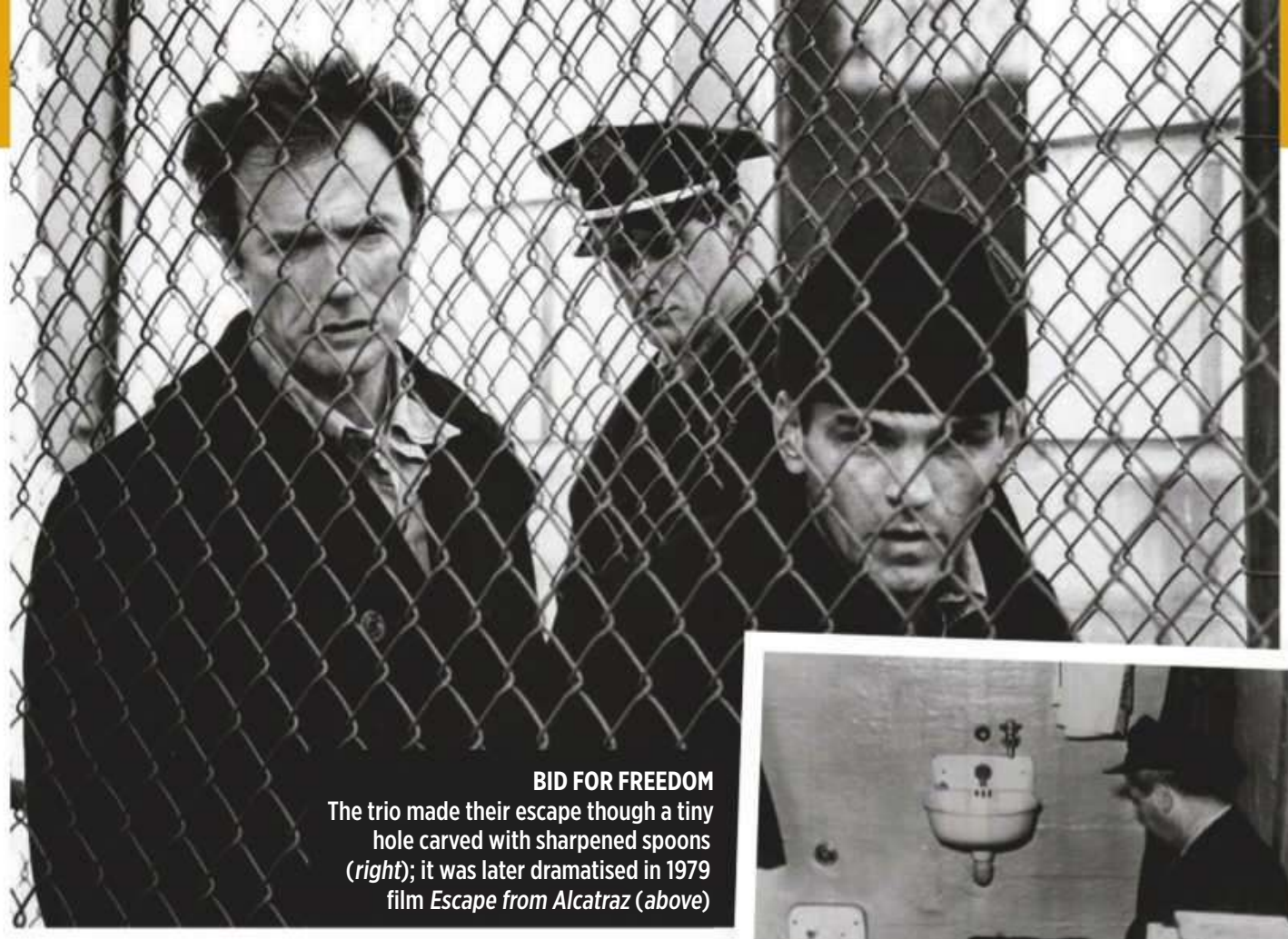
SHORT ANSWER Osamu Tezuka is the 'god of manga', but the Japanese comics were a long time in the drawing

LONG ANSWER Examples of Japanese art from the past eight centuries going back to c1200 and the delightfully named *Scroll of Frolicking Animals* have been touted as influences for manga. A rite of passage moment, however, came in the late 18th and early 19th centuries when the word 'manga' started appearing in works by renowned artists Santo Kyoden and Hokusai. The latter (of *The Great Wave* fame) produced a series of sketches known as *Hokusai Manga*, but they did not form a comic book by any means. The word meant 'whimsical or impromptu pictures'.

It would be in the years after World War II that manga came of age. Japanese artists had greater freedom than they had known for a long time, and occupying US troops brought over their comics for the Japanese to peruse. In this creative mix came Osamu Tezuka, the so called 'god of manga', and his most beloved character, Astro Boy, in 1951.

ART ATTACKS
Sumo sketches from the Hokusai Manga (*above*) and Osamu Tezuka's best-known creation, Astro Boy (*right*)

GETTY IMAGES X7, ALAMY X1



BID FOR FREEDOM
The trio made their escape though a tiny hole carved with sharpened spoons (*right*); it was later dramatised in 1979 film *Escape from Alcatraz* (*above*)

How many inmates escaped Alcatraz?

SHORT ANSWER Officially, none. Unofficially, three men in 1962 may have achieved 'the impossible'

LONG ANSWER From 1934 to 1963, Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay served as the toughest maximum-security federal penitentiary in the United States. Given how closely the inmates were watched and the near-freezing waters with strong currents surrounding the prison, escaping 'The Rock' was deemed impossible. That didn't stop a total of 36 prisoners from trying over 14 attempts – ending with 23 recaptured, six shot, two drowned and five missing, presumed dead.

Yet perhaps three of those missing escaped to freedom after all. Frank Morris and brothers John and Clarence Anglin spent six months planning an ingenious prison break. Beginning in December 1961, they scraped away at the deteriorating concrete walls of their cells with sharpened spoons to widen the air vents, which led to an unguarded corridor – hiding their progress each day with replica sections of wall made of magazine pages.

They constructed dummy heads out of toilet paper, toilet water, paint, soap and real hair from the barbers to trick the guards, and made a raft and lifejackets out of sewn-together raincoats. On 11 June 1962, the men put their plan into action and were not seen again. Though the authorities declared they drowned, evidence has popped up to suggest they got away, including a letter that emerged in 2018 purportedly from John Anglin, saying they all made it, "but barely!"

DID YOU KNOW?

HATSTAND LARCENY
Sci-fi maestro HG Wells once accidentally took the Mayor of Cambridge's hat instead of his own. Instead of returning it, he wrote a letter to the hatless official saying: "I stole your hat. I like your hat. I shall keep your hat."

EXTREME SPORTS
Pankration, a sport of the ancient Olympics, combined boxing and wrestling and only had a couple of rules: no biting, no gouging of the eyes, nose and mouth, and no attacking the genitals. Anything else was fair game.

O (IT'S IN) CANADA
In 1816, the US built a fort at the northern tip of Lake Champlain to protect the country from British Canada. Too late, they realised a surveying error meant it was actually on the wrong side of the border.

PRISONER PRINCESS
Aina, a princess from West Africa who had been captured by a rival kingdom, was brought to England by a Royal Navy captain. Renamed Sarah Forbes Bonetta, she was presented to Queen Victoria, who made her a goddaughter.

Did railways have their own time?

SHORT ANSWER No, but the railways did bring order to British time

LONG ANSWER Before the advent of rail travel, it didn't matter much if the time in one place in Britain was slightly different to another. Towns and cities worked to their own local time, meaning Bristol was ten minutes behind London while parts of Wales could be more than 20. But it became clear that this had to change once the Great Western Railway (GWR), founded in 1833, began steaming across the land.

What was needed was standardisation, which the GWR provided from 1840 onwards by bringing all schedules in line with Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). While this meant a train station often used a different time to the rest of the town (and had clocks built with two minute hands) – soon the nation gave way to progress. Within 15 years, more than 95 per cent of Britain ran by GMT.

GIVE US A HAND?
Clocks with extra hands were needed before the wider adoption of GMT

Why do lawyers wear wigs?

SHORT ANSWER The law courts couldn't help but follow the royal courts

LONG ANSWER Some would say the horsehair wigs add a sense of formality to proceedings, but they're simply part of the uniform – a tradition that began to keep up with fashion. King Louis XIV of France started sporting an elaborate wig to hide his baldness – caused by syphilis – and was soon followed by Charles II of England, making the wig the must-have accessory in the 17th century. It took a while for the law courts to catch up with royal courts, perhaps not until the 1680s, once lawyers were wearing wigs, they didn't seem eager to stop.

HOWER ABOUT THAT
As Supreme Allied Commander, it fell to Eisenhower to plan the Normandy invasion

Why was Eisenhower chosen as Allied Supreme Commander?

SHORT ANSWER It was always going to be an American, and the number one choice was too valuable to leave the US

LONG ANSWER Major General Dwight D Eisenhower was made Supreme Allied Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in December 1943. Though he had already overseen the successful Allied invasions of North Africa and Sicily testing his combat command skills and winning him favour among the British Eisenhower was not first candidate for the top job. The British put forward Chief of the Imperial General Staff and professional head of the British Army, Alan Brooke, but since the United States were providing, by far, the largest contribution to the invasion, it was accepted that an American should be Allied Supreme Commander.

That left US Army Chief of Staff, George Marshall, but his chances were scuppered by President Franklin D Roosevelt's desire to keep him in Washington, DC, leaving the door open for Eisenhower.

42

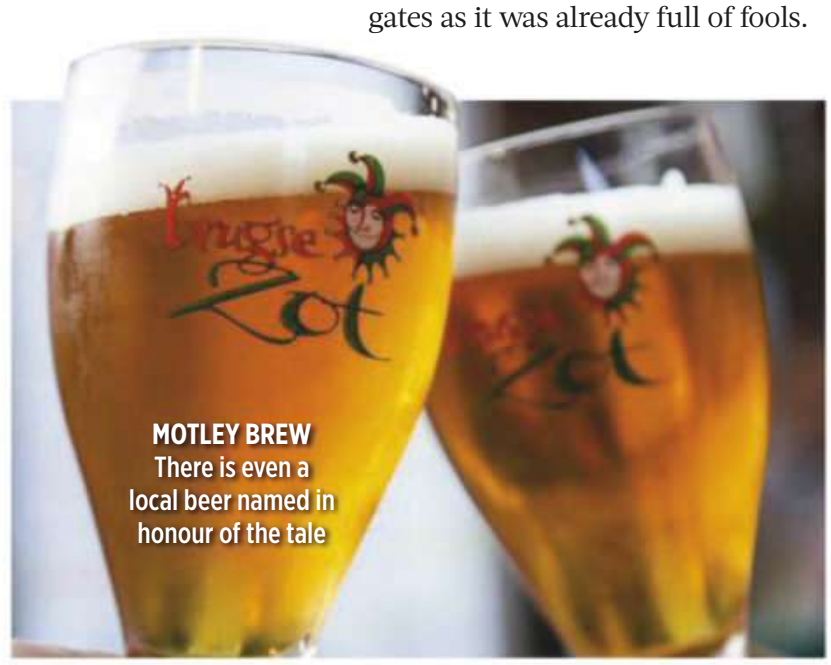
The number of British Prime Ministers, out of 55 to date, educated at Oxbridge

Why are the people of Bruges called 'fools'?

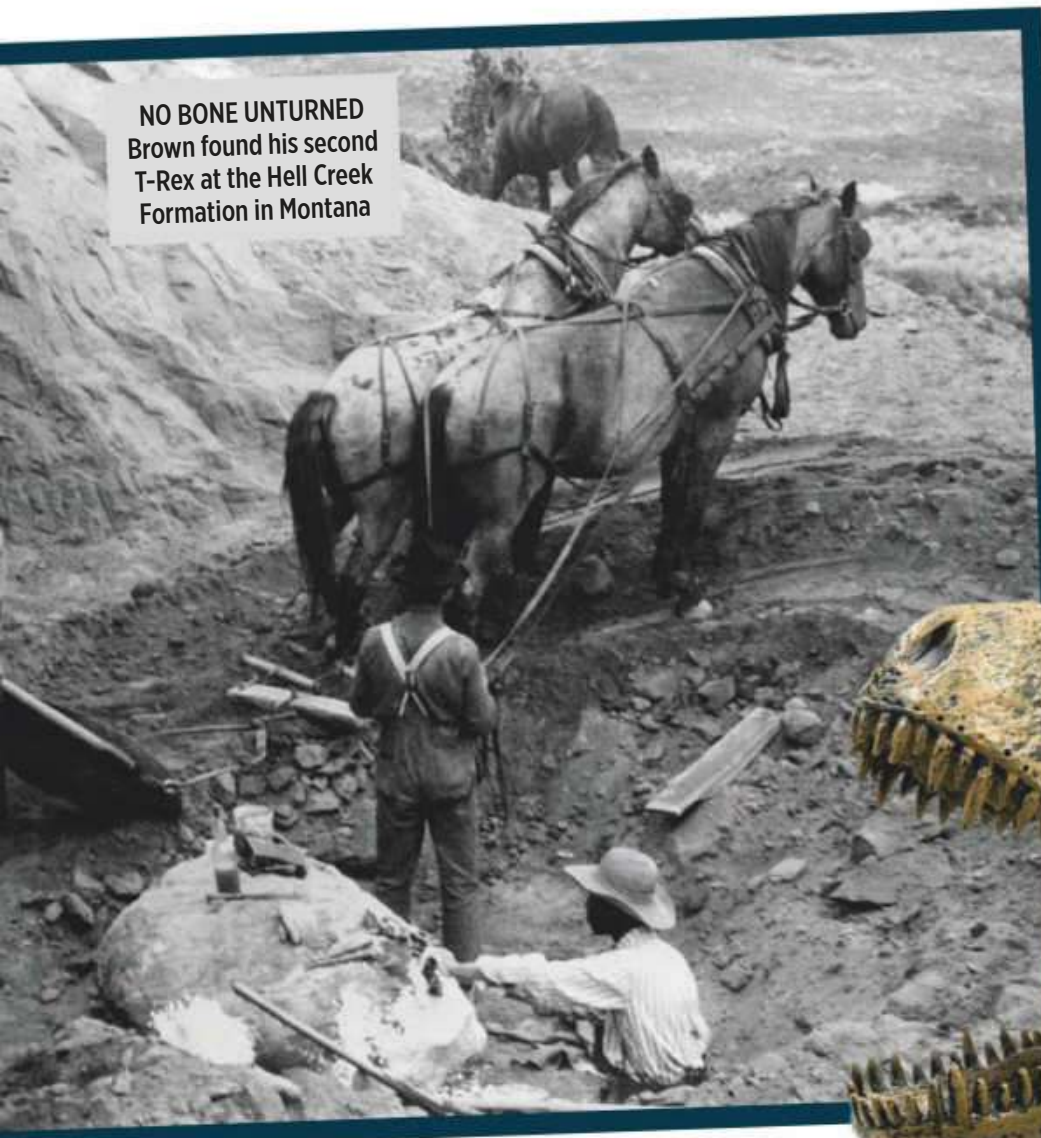
SHORT ANSWER They once took a future Holy Roman Emperor prisoner, then threw him a party

LONG ANSWER The residents of one beautiful Belgian city are (affectionately?) known as *Brugse Zotten*, the fools of Bruges – they seem happy with it as there's even a beer named after them. The moniker goes back to a medieval legend: in 1488, the future Archduke of Austria and Holy Roman Emperor, Maximilian I, visited Bruges. He was not the most popular of rulers, and the people imprisoned him for more than three months.

Once released, they held a big party in his honour, having realised that they needed his permission to hold public festivities and fairs – which, they told him, were needed to raise money for a new mental hospital. Maximilian suggested they just close Bruges's gates as it was already full of fools.



MOTLEY BREW
There is even a local beer named in honour of the tale

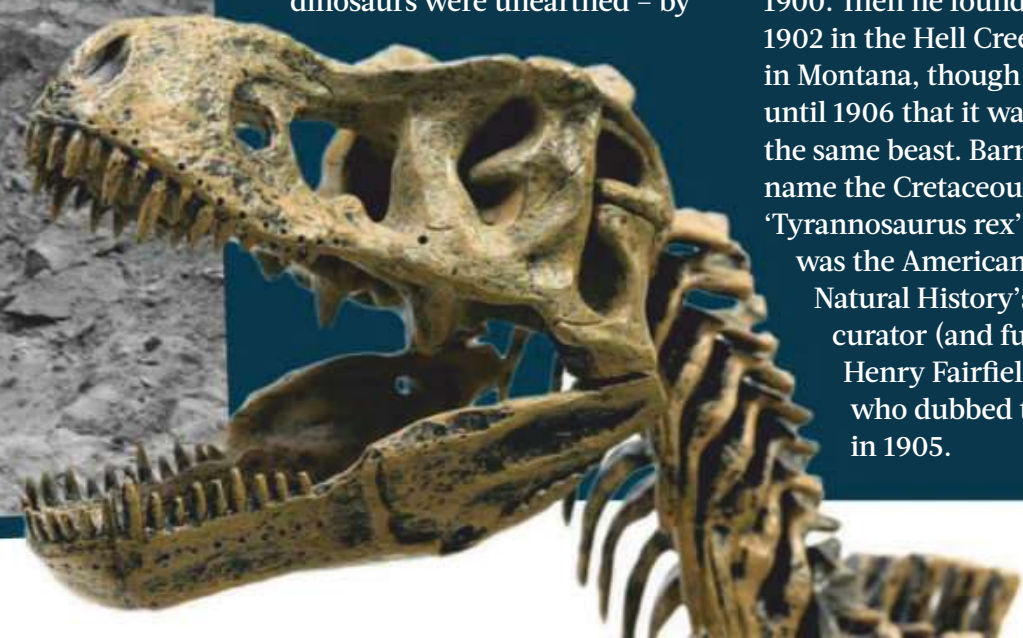


NO BONE UNTURNED
Brown found his second T-Rex at the Hell Creek Formation in Montana

Who discovered the T-Rex?

SHORT ANSWER Barnum Brown, or Mr Bones, made history as one of the most famous fossil hunters

LONG ANSWER At the dawn of the 20th century, not one but two partial skeletons of the king of the dinosaurs were unearthed – by the same man. American palaeontologist Barnum Brown found part of a previously unknown dinosaur skeleton in Wyoming in 1900. Then he found another in 1902 in the Hell Creek Formation in Montana, though it wasn't until 1906 that it was realised they the same beast. Barnum didn't name the Cretaceous creature 'Tyrannosaurus rex', though. That was the American Museum of Natural History's palaeontology curator (and future president) Henry Fairfield Osborn, who dubbed the new dino in 1905.



GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X3

A PIRATE'S LIFE
Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom in *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*

Why did pirates like the Caribbean?

SHORT ANSWER **Long before the Jack Sparrow movies, the real pirates made the most of the Caribbean's hiding spots, markets and government backing**

LONG ANSWER Piracy has existed as long as there have been boats, but we're talking about the rum swilling, peg legged, pieces of eight Arrrr ing anti heroes that have inspired countless works of literature and film. This 'golden age' of piracy, from 1650 to 1720, emerged from a time when Europeans were discovering, exploring and exploiting new lands. The literal boat loads of treasures and valuable resources being shipped over the Atlantic were just too tempting for the scoundrels of the seas.

The Caribbean became a centre of trade and colonisation for European powers, including the English, French, Dutch and – most successfully initially the Spanish, all vying for supremacy. They began paying buccaneers and privateers to harass enemy ships, granting them legitimacy with letters of marque.

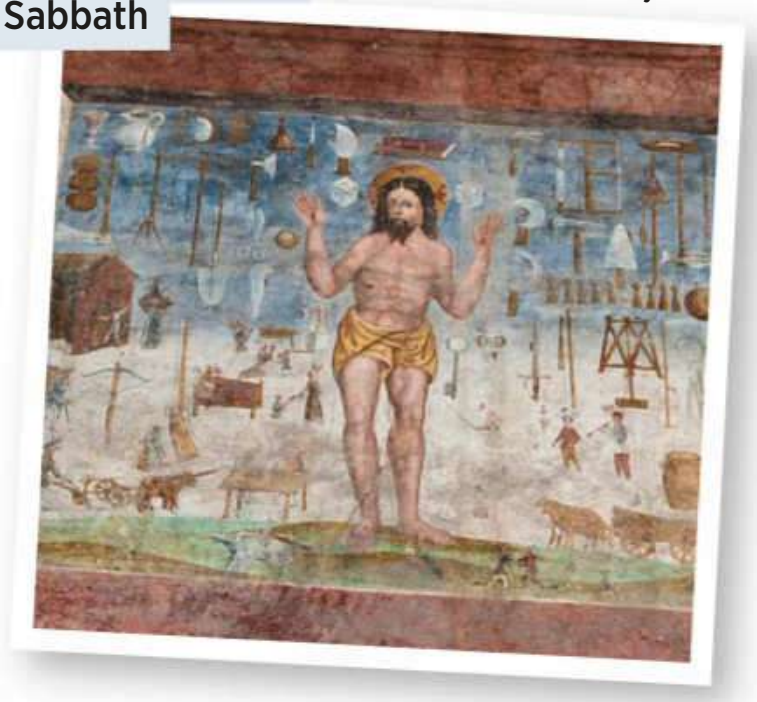
The region was ideal for piracy, with plenty of ports and islands for hiding, thriving markets to sell their ill gotten gains, and the Caribbean was too far from Europe for a navy to be present in force.

Soon, government sponsorship gave way to private enterprise. Pirate havens sprouted up, notably on the tiny island Tortuga and at Port Royal, Jamaica. In 1706, English privateers went one further and established a proto state, the Republic of Pirates, at Nassau in the Bahamas.

What was the 'Sunday Christ'?

SHORT ANSWER **Some medieval church goers needed visual reminders not to work on the Sabbath**

LONG ANSWER Religious imagery in medieval times had to get their messages across clearly so it could be understood by an illiterate audience not exactly versed in reading the Bible in Latin. The 'Sunday Christ' was a special form of wall painting (*like the one shown right*) found in churches around the 14th and 15th centuries in England, Wales and parts of Europe. In the centre would be Jesus Christ, either on the cross or after his crucifixion, surrounded by all manners of tools and trades: spades, axes, needles, scythes and scales alongside people baking bread, ploughing fields and any other form of labour. The message was that the Sabbath, Sunday, should be kept holy and that working that day actually inflicted pain and suffering on Christ.



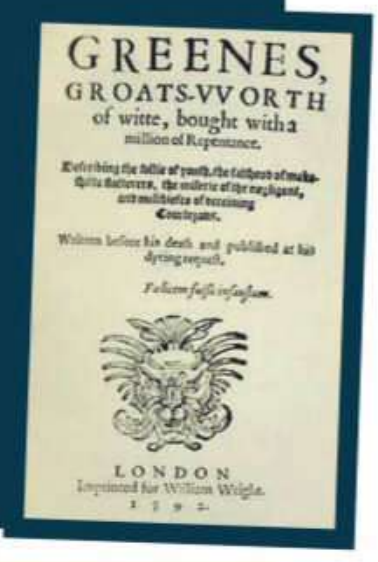
BANNED ACTS
This 15th-century 'Sunday Christ' fresco shows activities banned on a Sunday

Who called Shakespeare an "upstart crow"?

SHORT ANSWER **The young and upcoming playwright got a stinker of a review**

LONG ANSWER The term is better known these days thanks to the BBC comedy written by Ben Elton and starring David Mitchell as William Shakespeare chosen as a reminder that there was a time when not everyone thought the Bard was all that great. In 1592, as Shakespeare first started out on a writing career, the long established playwright Robert Greene penned *Greene's Groats Worth of Wit*, supposedly from his deathbed. The satirical pamphlet was highly critical of a young actor trying to be a writer, accusing him of plagiarism and having the temerity to think he could create anything as good as the university educated wordsmiths. Greene called him an "upstart crow, beautified with our feathers".

Printed posthumously, the pamphlet's use of the phrase "Tiger's heart wrapped in a player's hide" is seen as a clear allusion that the maligned writer was Shakespeare as it mimics a line from his *Henry VI, Part 3*.


GREENES,
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million of Repentance.
LONDON

A CROW TO PLUCK
Greene bashes Shakespeare's skill in his pamphlet

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Illustration by Tang Yau Hoong

The five fims in the *Small Axe* series tell the stories of London's West Indian community from the late 1960s to the mid-1980s

ONE TO WATCH

Capital gains

Small Axe / BBC One, continuing from Sunday 29 November, and BBC iPlayer, streaming now

The trial of the 'Mangrove Nine' is the focus of the first film in the collection

In the late 1960s, the Mangrove restaurant, located in Notting Hill, was a meeting place for black British activists. It was also an eatery that was repeatedly raided, which in 1970 led to a demonstration against police harassment.

In the wake of the protest, as the first offering in director Steve McQueen's *Small Axe* anthology series chronicles, came a trial where the so called 'Mangrove Nine' faced charges including incitement to riot. But in court, things didn't go as the authorities hoped. Most notably, the judge, Edward Clarke, talked of "racial hatred on both sides". Whatever the truth or otherwise of Clarke's assertion, this was the first ever judicial acknowledgment of racism within the Metropolitan Police.

It's a story told in *Mangrove* by McQueen (*12 Years A Slave*) with verve and energy in a feature that atmospherically conjures up a tough, pre gentrification inner city locale, where one of the area's most familiar landmarks, the Westway, is still an eerie, half built presence. The performances, notably from Shaun Parkes as Mangrove boss Frank Crichlow, a man with a chequered past and a risk taker, are committed and passionate, yet never lack nuance.

Mangrove and the other four films in the series collectively chart the story of London's West Indian community between the late 1960s and mid 1980s. In McQueen's words, the films represent "a celebration of all [the] community has succeeded in achieving against the odds".

Each film has its own distinct atmosphere. *Lovers Rock* is a joyous celebration of reggae soundtracked house parties in the 1980s. *Red, White And Blue* tells the true story of Leroy Logan (played by John Boyega of *Star Wars* fame), a trailblazing copper who fought against the prejudice of his fellow officers. *Alex Wheatle* is a biopic of the award winning writer, who found his voice after being jailed, and *Education* deals with institutional racism within the school system.

MCQUEEN LIMITED X2

Phoebe Dynevor (centre front) stars as Daphne Bridgerton, a debutante who must navigate high society in an attempt to find a husband

Gossip and intrigue

Bridgerton / Netflix, streaming from Christmas Day

With *Downton Abbey* appearing at best infrequently in cinemas these days, there's ample space in the TV schedules for an escapist period drama at Christmas. Which perhaps explains why Netflix is launching *Bridgerton*, based on the bestselling romantic novels by Julia Quinn, this festive season.

It's a lavish eight part drama set in Regency London, a time and place where making marital alliances appears to be the overriding concern of much of high society. The pressure is on for debutante Daphne Bridgerton (Phoebe Dynevor) to snag herself a husband. Simon Basset, the Duke of Hastings (Regé Jean Page) would certainly qualify as a good match, but he's seemingly a man with little interest in either his title or finding a wife.

To judge by what we know so far, *Bridgerton* will be a glossy affair, but don't necessarily expect it to be too sweet. A framing device is that one Lady Whistledown, voiced by Julie Andrews of *The Sound Of Music* fame, is charting society life in acid pen style, revealing secrets in a widely read scandal sheet. "You do not know me and never shall but be forewarned, dear reader, I certainly know you," she warns the great and good in a trailer released in November.

Produced by Shonda Rhimes, showrunner on the hit American dramas *Grey's Anatomy* and *Scandal*, *Bridgerton* was created by screenwriter Chris Van Dusen. Amidst its ensemble cast, familiar faces include Ben Miller as the lecherous Lord Featherington. Golda Rosheuvel plays tastemaker Queen Charlotte, whose fascination with Lady Whistledown's words turns to alarm when stories get too close to the palace.

Golda Rosheuvel as Queen Charlotte

Festive fun

Archive On Four: It's Behind You! The Weird And Wonderful Story Of British Pantomime / Radio 4, Boxing Day

Thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic, few, if any, of us will have been able to attend a pantomime in 2020. Perhaps next year, when we can attend with a greater sense of pantomime's history thanks to a one-off *Archive On Four* documentary that looks for panto's roots, and finds they go as deep into the past as Ancient Rome.

Closer to our own time, the programme explores the Victorian influence on the form, and the way it has intersected with music hall and influenced TV shows as diverse as *Monty Python* and *Mrs Brown's Boys*. There's much here, too, on the way that panto gives so many children a first experience of theatre, and on the importance of the panto season in generating the cash that sustains British theatres through the rest of the year. Oh yes it does...

Journalist and presenter Andrew Marr explores the events and people that have shaped the second Elizabethan age

LIAM DANIEL/NETFLIX © 2020 X2, GETTY IMAGES X1, LION TELEVISION X2, NETFLIX X1

Tudor execution

The Fall of Anne Boleyn / Channel 5, weekdays from Tuesday 1 December

On 1 June 1533, Anne Boleyn was crowned as queen consort of England. Through her marriage to Henry VIII, she had reached the zenith of English society. Yet less than three years later, on 19 May 1536, Anne was executed at the Tower of London. How did the mother of Elizabeth I fall so far from favour, and so fast?

It's a story explored in three episodes by Tracy Borman, joint chief curator of Historic Royal Palaces, in a series that focuses on three events at the end of Anne's life. Borman begins with the day Anne was arrested. In the morning, we learn, the queen was watching a game of real tennis in Greenwich when she was ordered to present herself to the Privy Council. Accused of adultery, she was imprisoned in the Tower.

The second episode focuses on her trial, where the odds were overwhelmingly stacked against Anne. The final programme deals with Anne's execution. Her decapitation by a skilled swordsman was by no means the worst fate that could have befallen Anne considering she was found guilty of treason, and potentially faced being burnt at the stake or being hanged, drawn and quartered.

Throughout, the figure of Thomas Cromwell, the central character in Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall* trilogy and the man who orchestrated Anne's demise, looms large. Viewers also get to peek over Borman's shoulder at rarely seen documents and artefacts, including a ring worn by Elizabeth I that contains a secret portrait of Anne.

Anne Boleyn was accused of adultery, incest and treason – and, ultimately, lost her head

Tracy Borman and Afua Hirsch discuss Anne Boleyn's trial

Societal change

New Elizabethans by Andrew Marr / BBC Two, December

Since the dawn of the modern Elizabethan age in 1952, Britain has undergone huge changes. This, as Andrew Marr charts in a new series, has been reflected in the lives of Elizabeth's people, some of whom have shaped this transformation.

In the first of three episodes, Marr considers how Britain, a deferential and hierarchical nation in the 1950s, became more liberal and egalitarian. The famous faces that feature in the programme range from film star Diana Dors to Roy Jenkins, Labour's famously reform-minded home secretary between 1965 and 1967.

The theme of the second programme is Britain adjusting to the loss of its empire. The nation has, suggests Marr, replaced military might with cultural reach. Those featured in the show include cookery writer Elizabeth David and the architect of Live Aid, Bob Geldof.

The final programme deals with the decline of British manufacturing. How and why has this happened when Britain can produce such ingenious figures as hovercraft inventor Christopher Cockerell and computer pioneer Clive Sinclair? And should we even worry when culture and creativity are arguably our biggest assets?

Blood and gore

Barbarians / Netflix, streaming now

It was one of Rome's most ignominious defeats. In AD 9, in Teutoburg Forest, Germanic forces routed three Roman legions and their auxiliaries, a defeat that largely halted Roman ambitions for expansion east of the Rhine. This mini-series, available to view either in German (with subtitles) or dubbed in English, offers a fictionalised account of the build-up to the battle.

Barbarians is often brutal viewing, but the battle scenes are undeniably impressive and it's intriguing to see the story told from a German perspective.

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

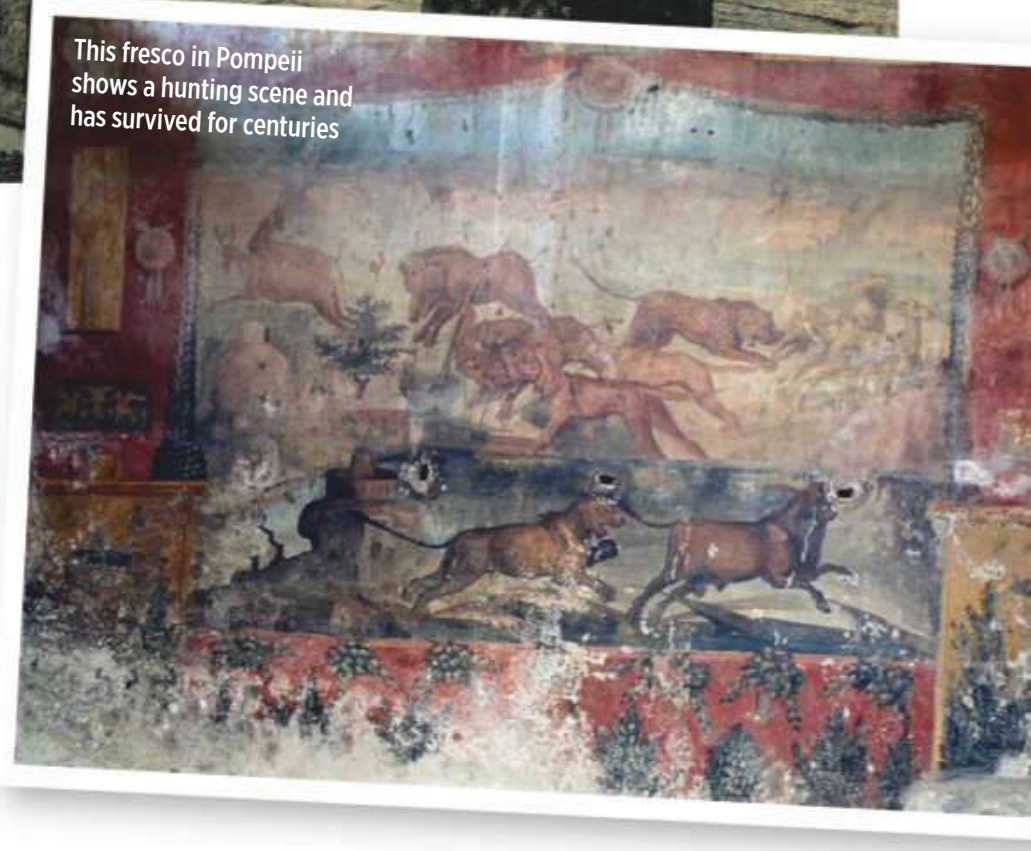
WHAT TO SEE AND WHERE TO VISIT IN THE WIDER WORLD OF HISTORY

VIRTUAL TOURS

We've rounded up 5 virtual tours and exhibitions that allow you to explore history at your leisure – all without leaving your home

SCAN THE QR CODE ON YOUR SMART DEVICE

The forum in Pompeii would have been the city's political, social and commercial heart



This fresco in Pompeii shows a hunting scene and has survived for centuries

SCAN ME

Pompeii

POMPEII, ITALY

bit.ly/Pompeiivirtualtour

Visiting one of the most iconic archaeological sites in the world couldn't be easier with the Google Arts & Culture virtual tour of Pompeii. With just a click, you can be in the heart of the Roman city that has been frozen in time.

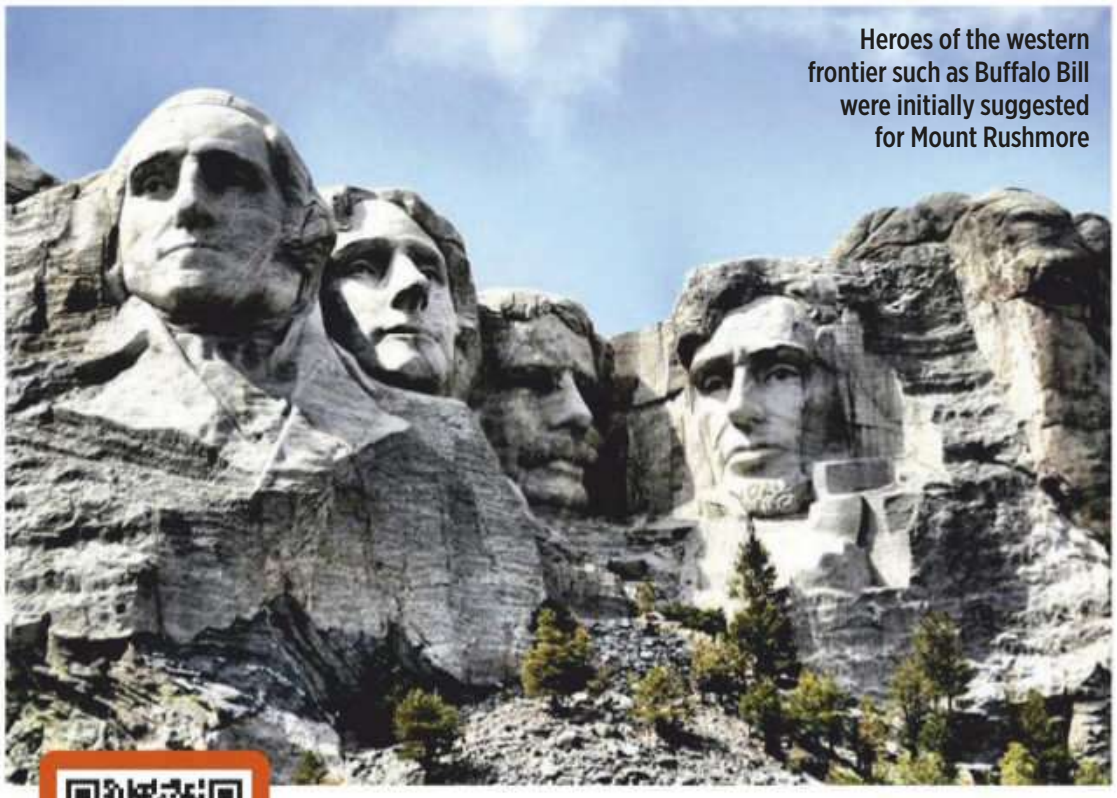
In AD 79, Mount Vesuvius violently erupted, spewing lava and volcanic ash over the towns of Pompeii and Heculaneum near Naples. Around 2,000 residents were killed instantly at Pompeii, and the city was buried beneath layers of ash, preserved for centuries.

Before this disaster Pompeii had been a popular resort for the wealthy citizens of the Roman empire and a thriving port city. It was one of the main production centres for the favourite Roman delicacy garum, a fish sauce the Romans used as a condiment.

It wasn't until 1748 that Pompeii was rediscovered and archaeologists carried out excavations; they found that much of the city had been perfectly preserved underneath the ash. You can still see the marks that chariots and carts made in the stone streets. Casts of bodies of the dead were created by pouring cement into the holes left in the ash where the bodies had disintegrated – leaving behind chilling reminders of these people's final moments.

From the amphitheatre to brothels and villas, you can explore all of Pompeii's famous sites online and witness Vesuvius looming over the ruins from the safety of your home. See the Temple of Apollo – supposedly the oldest building in the city – and the city's amphitheatre. Once home to vicious gladiatorial games. It's believed to be the oldest of its kind built from stone.

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X1, RONALD ROBERTS, ALMA KARBACH AND BERYL ROBERTS, C.1923. RONALD ROBERTS' COLLECTIONS, WIENER HOLOCAUST LIBRARY COLLECTIONS, COURTESY CAROL ROBERTS



Heroes of the western frontier such as Buffalo Bill were initially suggested for Mount Rushmore

SCAN ME

Mount Rushmore

SOUTH DAKOTA, US

bit.ly/mountrushmoretour

The faces of four of the most famous presidents in US history gaze from the monument at Mount Rushmore, and you don't even need to visit the US to see them. These carvings in the Black Hills of South Dakota were created between 1927 and 1941, and depict presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. These four individuals were chosen by Rushmore creator and sculptor Gutzon Borglum as he believed they represented four key elements of US history – its birth, growth, development and preservation. Initially the presidents were going to be depicted from the waist upwards, but a lack of funding cut the project short. Millions of visitors come to the national park each year and now you can join them with an online virtual tour.

SCAN ME

Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery

EXETER, ENGLAND

rammuseum.org.uk/visiting-us/explore-ramm-online/

Exeter's Royal Albert Memorial Museum is the city's largest museum, and holds collections in archaeology, zoology, anthropology and fine art many of which are now online. More than 14,000 objects are available to view on the museum's Collections Explorer and you can also take a virtual tour of the museum via Google Arts & Culture. Founded in 1868 as a memorial to Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, some of its most prized items include an ancient Egyptian snake armlet, a set of Samurai armour and a French medieval puzzle jug so named because it would surprise the user with liquid pouring out of hidden holes.

The museum once housed the Exeter Schools of Art and Science

SCAN ME

Wiener Holocaust Library

LONDON

wienerlibrary.co.uk/Online_Exhibitions

The Wiener Holocaust Library in London has an extensive archive on the Holocaust and the Nazi era, and many online exhibitions. These include *The Kitchener Camp* – an almost forgotten story about a derelict army base camp where rescued Jewish men were sent from Germany. Another online exhibition is *The Persecution of Black People in Nazi Germany: Ronald Roberts' Story*. Roberts (*see image*) was born in Germany, to a white German mother and a black British/Barbadian father. He suffered persecution in Nazi Germany and was eventually interned in a camp as a British national. This exhibition charts his life and that of black people living in Nazi Germany.

Ronald Roberts, with his mother Alma Karbach and sister Beryl, c1923

SCAN ME

Noteworthy Women

THE BANK OF ENGLAND MUSEUM

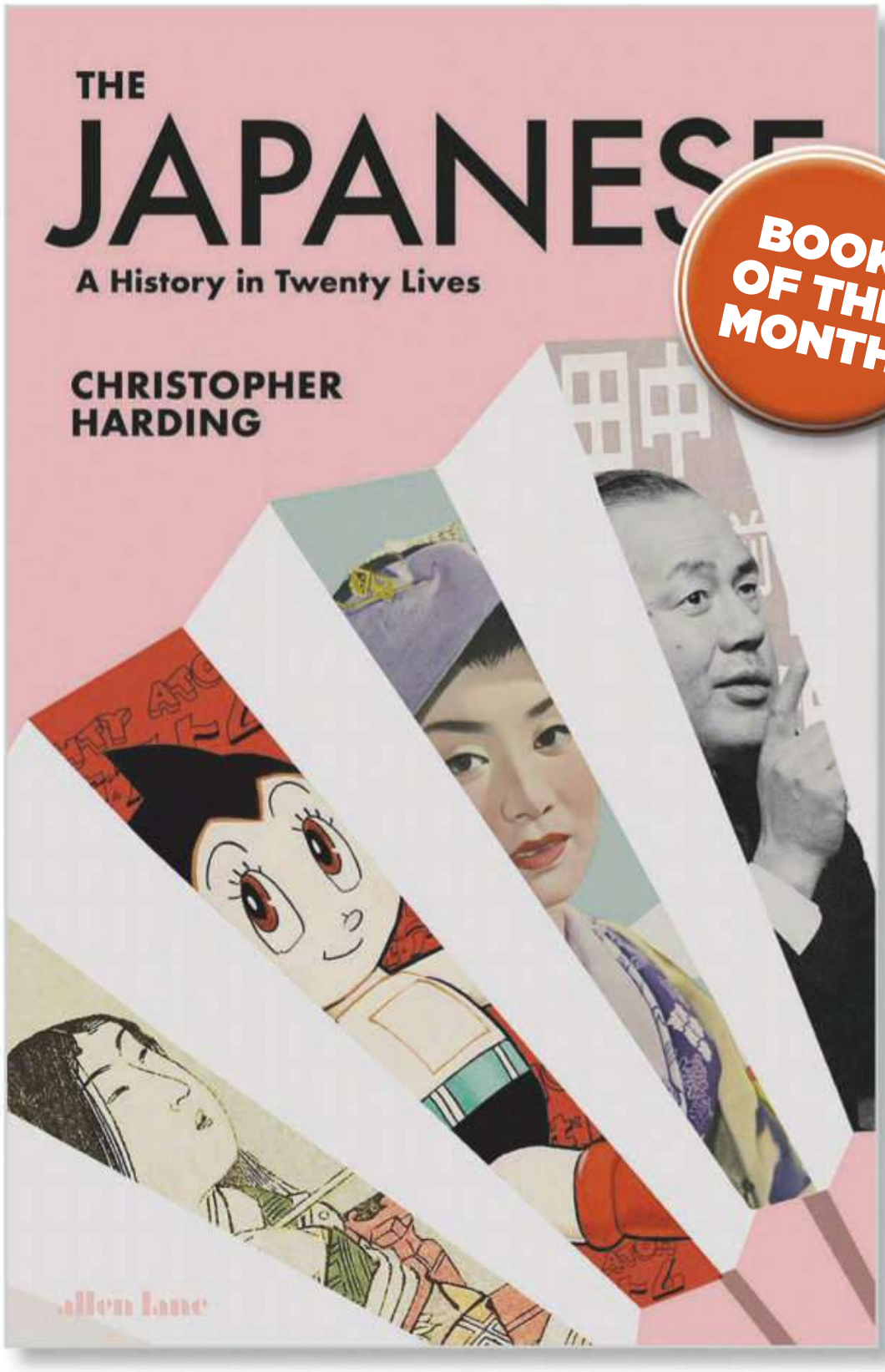
bit.ly/boe_noteworthy_women

Throughout history, the story of money has often been one of men. This Bank of England Museum online exhibition takes a look at the women who have helped produce, design and feature on England's currency. Since the mid 18th-century, women have worked in the paper mills making bank notes and many female figures have been represented on them such as Britannia, the female symbol of Britain. Discover how the portrait of Elizabeth II has evolved, and the story of the women behind the currency.

The image of Elizabeth II on bank notes has been used as a security feature

BOOKS & PODCASTS

THIS MONTH'S BEST HISTORICAL READS AND LISTENS



The Japanese: A History in Twenty Lives

By Christopher Harding
Allen Lane, £25, hardback, 528 pages

The people included in this look at the lives of 20 of Japan's most notable characters monk Shinran, leader Hōjō Masako, diplomat Hasekura Tsunenaga among them are not, it's fair to say, household names, but historian and broadcaster Christopher Harding brings them to life with warmth and insight. Together, they offer a great primer to the nation's expansive, dynamic story, from its semi mythical origins, through the feudal era of shoguns and samurai, to its post-World War II resurgence.

The Paper Chase: The Printer, the Spymaster, and the Hunt for the Rebel Pamphleteers

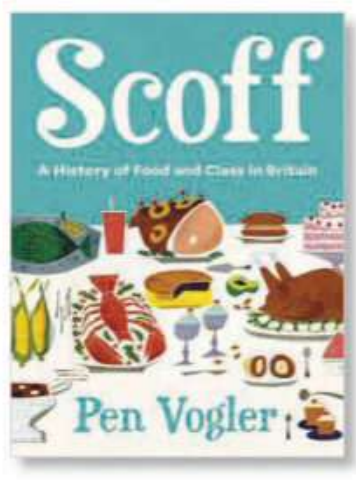
By Joseph Hone
Chatto & Windus, £18.99, hardback, 272 pages

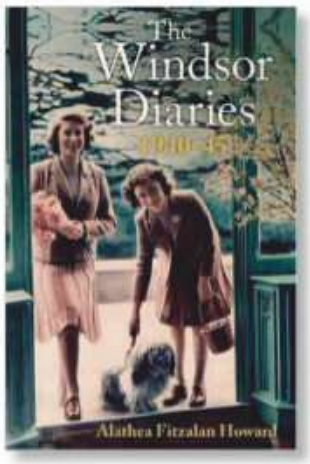
Centuries before Twitter, there were pamphlets: hastily distributed, cheaply produced booklets designed to be widely read and, therefore, highly influential. This fascinating account explores the story of just one such pamphlet a 1705 publication whose contents looked set to be inflammatory enough to topple a government. Featuring masked conspirators, seditious whispers and state spies, Joseph Hone's book is testament to the power of the written word and has all the pace and intrigue of a thriller.

Scoff: A History of Food and Class in Britain

By Pen Vogler
Atlantic, £20, hardback, 480 pages

You are what you eat nutritionally, of course, but also in terms of your social class. That's the idea behind this look at how food and dining reflects and shapes our place in society from whether you have wine or tea with your evening meal, to whether that meal is called 'supper' or 'dinner'. It has much to say about centuries of Britain's past and its place in the world, and the fact that it's peppered with historical recipes makes it all the more appealing.





The Windsor Diaries 1940–45

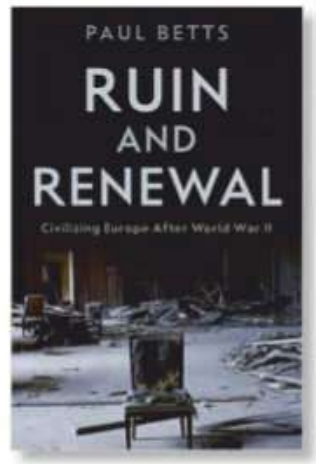
By Alathea Fitzalan Howard
Hodder & Stoughton, £25, hardback, 368 pages

After Alathea Fitzalan Howard's parents separated, she was sent to live with her grandfather, Viscount Fitzalan of Derwent, in 1940. Her new home was a lodge in Windsor Great Park, where she soon became friends with the neighbours the young princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, who were staying with their parents in Windsor Castle. Alathea's diaries, reproduced here, offer an intimate portrait of a life intertwined with those of the royals, and of a childhood spent in the shadow of World War II.

Agent Sonya: Lover, Mother, Soldier, Spy

By Ben MacIntyre
Viking, £25, hardback, 400 pages

Ben MacIntyre is a dab hand at vibrant, pacy histories of spies and spycraft, and here he turns his attention to Ursula Kuczynski the German communist activist whose espionage helped Russia create its first atomic bomb. She emerges here as a fully rounded figure: in and out of love, deeply fond of her children, and determined that her life mean something. And what a life, too: spanning 93 years and interwoven with some of the most pivotal chapters of 20th century, this is dramatic stuff.



Ruin and Renewal: Civilising Europe After World War II

By Paul Betts
Profile, £25, hardback, 544 pages

Europe, 1945. A continent lies ruined by the military and economic deprivations of World War II, and faced with a question: how to rebuild? It wasn't just a matter of logistics, either, as making sense of the horrors of the Holocaust would also require grappling with some foundational issues of civilisation and humanity. That all might sound a bit heady and, indeed, there are some big ideas here but Paul Betts offers an accessible overview.

HistoryExtra Podcast

Each month we bring you three of our favourite interviews from the HistoryExtra podcast archives...

Visit historyextra.com/podcast for new podcasts every week

THIS MONTH... three podcasts on maritime history

Living with the oceans

bit.ly/LivingOceansPod89

We spend much of our time on and thinking about the land but the sea has shaped human lives, and human development, for centuries. In this 2018 conversation, Barry Cunliffe and David Abulafia two leading experts on the relationship between people and the landscape consider the maritime currents of history from the ancient world to the present day, and from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic.

Viking ships

bit.ly/VikingShipsPod89

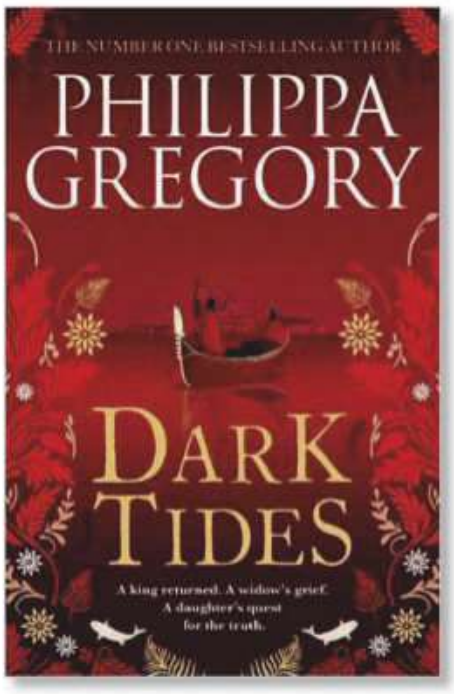
From plunder and pillage to trading goods and ideas, the Viking age of the eighth to 11th century was centred around the sea, both logistically and culturally. But what would it have been like aboard one of their ships? In this 2013 episode, historical novelist Giles Kristian reports back from having spent a few days on replica vessel in Norway.

The White Ship

bit.ly/WhiteShipPod89

The sinking of the White Ship in the English Channel in November 1120 was a pivotal moment in medieval history not only because of its human cost around 300 people perished but also because the dead included the legitimate heir to the throne. In this recent episode, Charles Spencer talks to fellow historian Dan Jones about a maritime disaster that changed the course of history.

HISTORICAL FICTION....


THE NUMBER ONE BESTSELLING AUTHOR
PHILIPPA GREGORY
DARK TIDES
A king returned. A widow's grief. A daughter's quest for the truth.

Dark Tides

By Philippa Gregory
Simon & Schuster, hardback, £20

The second in the *Fairmile* series, *Dark Tides* follows the exploits of the Tidelands family across Restoration London, the early frontiers of New England and the glamour of Venice. In 1670, Alinor receives two visitors at her shabby home along the Thames one her ex lover who abandoned her many years ago, and the other, a woman claiming to be her daughter in law with news of her son's death. Alinor is convinced this woman is an impostor and seeks advice from her brother, who is trying to forge a new life in the New World.

Excerpt

In this extract, James Avery, a nobleman, arrives at a shabby warehouse on the south side of the river Thames, hoping to find the lover and child he had deserted 21 years earlier...

He looked at her imploringly, so pale, she thought he might faint. But she did not offer him so much as a drop of water, though his lips were grey and he put up a hand to his neck and loosened his collar. 'Should you go outside for air?' she asked him, uncaring. 'Or just go?' 'You have taken my child as your own?' he whispered. She inclined her head; but did not answer. 'You took my child? A kidnap?' She nearly smiled. 'Hardly. You were not there to steal from. You were far away. I don't think we could even see the dust behind your grand coach.' 'Was it a boy? Or a girl?' 'Both the girl and the boy are mine.' 'But which was mine?' He was agonised. She shrugged. 'Neither of them now.' 'Alys, for pity's sake. You will give my child back to me. To his great estate? To inherit my fortune?' 'No,' she said. 'What?' 'No, thank you,' she said insolently. There was a long silence in the room, though outside they could hear the shouts of the men as the last grain sack was hauled off the barge, and they started to load it with goods for the return trip. They heard barrels of French wine and sugar roll along the quayside. Still he said nothing, but his hand tugged at the rich lace collar at his throat. Still she said nothing, but kept her head turned away from him as if she had no interest in his pain. A great clatter and rumble of wheels on the cobbles outside the window made her turn in surprise. 'Is that a carriage? Here?' he asked. She said nothing, but stood listening, blank-faced, as a carriage rolled noisily up the cobbled quay to the warehouse and stopped outside the front door which gave on to the street. 'A gentleman's carriage?' he asked incredulously. 'Here?'

Q&A
Philippa Gregory

Philippa Gregory is one of the world's foremost historical novelists. She wrote her first novel, *Wideacre*, whilst completing her PhD in 18th-century literature. Now a recognised authority on women's history, her flair for blending history and imagination has developed into a signature style.

Why did you chose the Civil War and Restoration to set the *Fairmile* series?
I knew I wanted to return to Alinor and Alys's story. The first book, *Tidelands*, ended on a real cliffhanger. *Dark Tides* opens in 1670, ten years after the monarchy has been restored – in the form of Charles II – following the execution of Charles I, in 1649. London was teeming with wealth and opportunity for Charles II's royalist supporters. Trade routes were opening up with Europe and America, and London had become a powerhouse for commerce. But for Puritans and the working people who had fought against the monarchy, there was tremendous danger and hardship. In *Dark Tides* we find our heroines trying to make a living in their own right on the banks of the river Thames; it was a life fraught with difficulty, leaving them on the very edges of society.

Are you a fan of TV and film adaptations of your work?
I think when you are a writer of novels you will always prefer the book to any other way of telling a story – it is the medium that I chose and love – but I have been lucky enough to work with excellent teams during my career in television and film. There is something wonderful in seeing a story come alive in another medium, and it is magical when I see the actors in costume bringing the characters to life.

Do you prefer writing about real or fictional figures?
I love writing about historical figures, but I knew I wanted this series to be a history of ordinary people – a family saga, following the fortunes and failures of the family over time. I wanted to write this not limited by the real life of a historical person, but free to imagine the story. It's still a historical novel with real events and some known historical figures, but the lead characters are fictional.

What is your writing process like?
I write all the time and I can write anywhere, on a laptop. My research is mostly reading, which will take up the first six months of the writing time, but when I start to write I read and re-read at the same time as writing – the processes overlap and inform each other. I also visit the places that are part of the story and make sure that I go to the local museums.

Have you got any more novels in the pipeline?
Yes of course! I'm about to start work on book three in the *Fairmile* series and I'm also working on a huge non-fiction project on women's history.

LETTERS

WHAT IF...
HENRY VIII'S FIRST SON HAD LIVED?
"HENRY SAW HIMSELF AS A WARRIOR KING... HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE SPENT MOST OF HIS REIGN WAGING WAR"
WHAT IF...
THE GUNPOWDER PLOT SUCCEEDED?
"ASSASSINATING JAMES AND HIS GOVERNMENT WAS ONE THING. SEIZING POWER QUITE ANOTHER"
IN CONTEXT

Our alternative history series seems to be raising as many questions as it answers

HENRY VIII'S LEGACY

I read with interest your alternative history article on what would have changed had Henry VIII's first born son, Prince Henry, lived (July 2020). In my estimation,very little would have changed as, inevitably as he did with most women, Henry would have grown bored with Catherine of Aragon and pursued younger women as he aged, maybe marrying one of them and causing another rift with the Church.

Having everything was not enough for Henry's egotism. He would have found other excuses for his wars and his jousting injury would still have left him bad tempered and obese through inactivity. It seems hard to believe much would have changed until his own death and his [first born] son took the crown. Only then are the possibilities endless.

Matthew Wilson, Wolverhampton

THE US AT WAR

I read Jonathan Wilkes' article 'What if Japan didn't attack Pearl Harbor' (November 2020) with interest. The counterfactual speculation did not raise the scenario of the Japanese attack on the Philippines, without attacking Pearl Harbor, resulting in the Pacific fleet being lured across to resist the invasion, where they would have been at a disadvantage to superior Japanese airpower. The result would have been a similar knockout blow against the US battleships, which would have achieved the same effect as the attack on Pearl Harbor, without the element of treachery and probably sinking the aircraft carriers as well.

The scenario was actually considered in David C Evans' 2017 book *The Japanese Navy in World War II: In The Words of Former Japanese Naval Officers*, in which former Japanese naval officers speculate on how campaigns could have been fought differently.

An attack on the Philippines may not have resulted in as a strong a desire for revenge, but it would have brought America into World War II, with an even greater emphasis on the European war.

Andrew Hudson, Northampton

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The interesting scenario about what might have happened had the gunpowder plot been successful in England, in 1605 (December 2020), made me think of its hypothetical impacts on the birth of the US and its culture.

The conjecture that the restoration of Catholicism in England would have resulted in the earlier flux of Protestant immigration to the US was particularly intriguing and eye opening in a religious and cultural context.

It also led me to wonder about the following questions: what would have Catholic England's policy have been toward its Spanish ally in the expedition of the New World, principally, including America? Could the New World have been the only choice of destination for the exodus of English Protestants? Could Spanish have become the official language of the US?

Stephanie Suh, California

CROSSWORD WINNERS

The three lucky winners of the crossword from issue 86 are:

R Fraser, Tain
S Meredith, Devon
J Collie, London

Congratulations! You've each won a DVD copy of the BBC drama *The Trial of Christine Keeler.*

Please note, there will be a delay in posting your prize due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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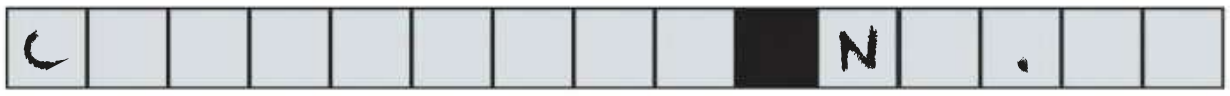
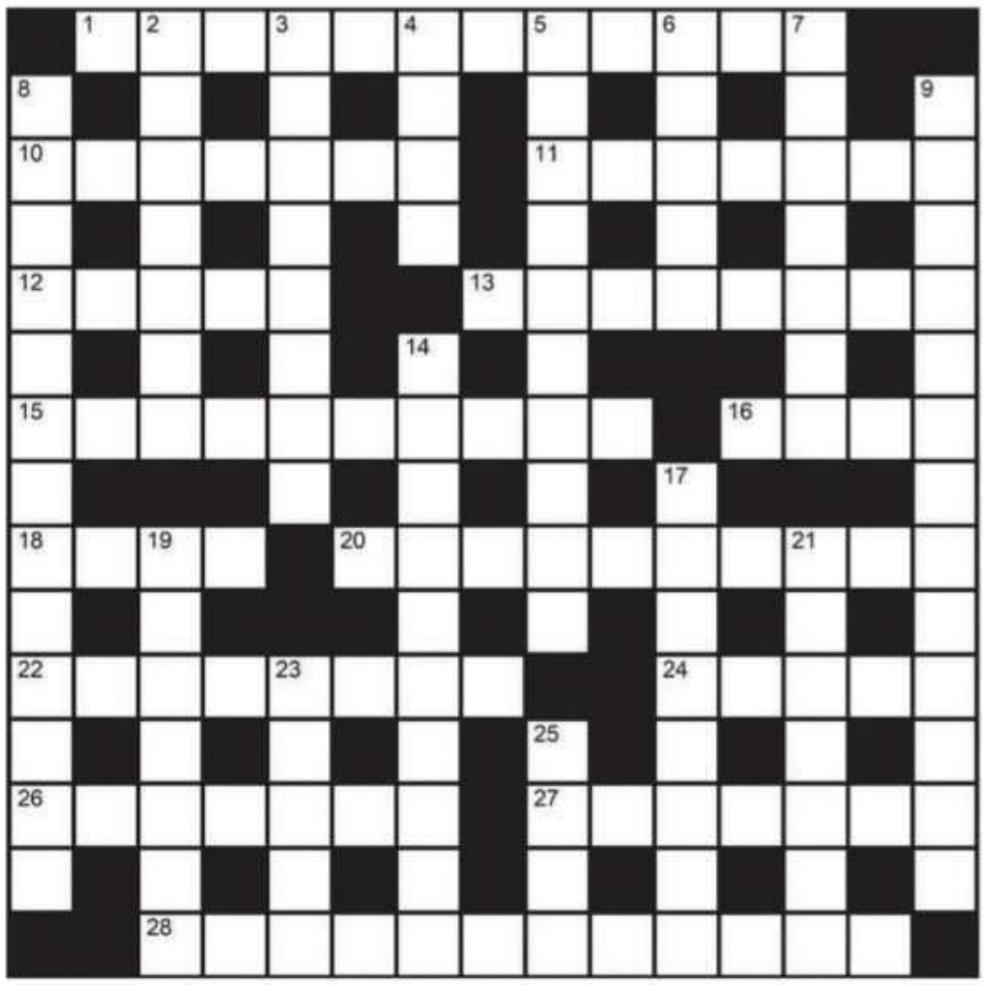
CROSSWORD

TEST YOURSELF WITH OUR HISTORICAL PUZZLE EVERY ISSUE



Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book



Set by Richard Smyth

ACROSS

1 1960 Billy Wilder film (3,9)
10 City in Georgia, devastated in the American Civil War (7)
11 Glenn ___ (b.1970), Australian Test cricketer (7)
12 The *Iliad* and the *Aeneid*, for example (5)
13 1704 battle; Oxfordshire palace (8)
15 Solomon R ___ (1861–1949), American art benefactor (10)
16 Major female deity in Ancient Egyptian religion (4)
18 Repository for the remains of the dead, such as the Daisen Kofun in Japan (4)
20 Name of African country Burkina Faso until 1984 (5,5)
22 ___ Letters, 1998 collection of poetry by Ted Hughes (8)
24 ___ Panther Party, revolutionary group founded in California in 1966 by Bobby Seale and Huey P Newton (5)
26 Surname of the Venetian Renaissance painters Jacopo, Gentile and Giovanni (7)
27 Hamlet's stepfather (7)
28 10th-century Italian monk of Montjoux; dog breed (5,7)

DOWN

2 Michael ___ (b.1954), Jamaican cricketer nicknamed 'Whispering Death' (7)
3 Latin term for 'Lamb of God', used in Christian liturgy (5,3)
4 The first man, Biblically (4)
5 Member of a Sri Lankan militant group also known as the LTTE, 1976–2009 (5,5)
6/19 Collection of Ancient Greek sculptures now held (controversially) by the British Museum (5,7)
7 PL ___ (1899–1996), author of the Mary Poppins books (7)
8 Term for a Democrat elected to the US Congress in 1974, after the fall of Richard Nixon (9,4)
9 Confederate general in the American Civil War (1824–63), nicknamed 'Stonewall' (6,7)
14 2002 film based on the memoir of Holocaust survivor Władysław Szpilman (3,7)
17 Companion and (briefly) wife of Adolf Hitler (1912–45) (3,5)
19 See 6 down
21 The lover of Hero in Greek legend (7)
23 Caribbean state ruled by François Duvalier from 1957 to 1971 (5)
25 Ancient city in Israel, strategically important during the Crusades (4)

CHANCE TO WIN

BOOK WORTH £20 FOR THREE WINNERS

Troy: Myth and Reality
by Alexandra Villing, J Lesley Fitton, Victoria Donnellan, Andrew Shapland

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **BBC History Revealed, Christmas 2020 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **christmas2020@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 January 2020**.

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SOLUTION Nº 87

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NEXT ISSUE

••• ON SALE 29 DECEMBER •••

THE CIVIL WARS

Discover how the bloody 17th-century clash between Parliament and the Crown tore the British Isles apart, in our essential guide

PLUS...

WHAT IF THE SOVIETS HAD WON THE RACE TO THE MOON? TOP 10 HISTORICAL ENTREPRENEURS **CHARLES SOBHRAJ: FRAUDSTER, THIEF AND SERIAL KILLER** SPOTLIGHT ON: RICHARD THE LIONHEART **THE SIEGE OF SIDNEY STREET** AND MORE...

BBC HISTORY REVEALED

GETTY IMAGES X3

JOHN SMITH, THE 137-YEAR-OLD MAN c1920

To look at his weathered, leathery skin, it is obvious that this Chippewa man from Minnesota, US, lived to a ripe old age. But 137? That is the age John Smith had supposedly reached when he died in 1922. His gravestone at Cass Lake – where he spent nearly all of his life – gives Smith's year of birth as 1784, while his obituary in *The Star Tribune* claimed he could clearly remember 18th-century battles between the Chippewa and Sioux, and the War of 1812. As you might imagine, Smith's extraordinary age has been questioned. Paul Buffalo knew John Smith and has stated that Smith had said he was between seven and ten when "the stars fell", a possible reference to the Leonid meteor shower of 1833. If true, this would have made him almost 100 when he died.

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